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The Impact of Covid-19 on Migrant Workers in India

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Abstract

This paper discusses issues regarding the effect of COVID-19 on the migrant workers. These impacts were most troubling for low-income households, which are less well positioned to cope with earnings losses during a recession, have no alternative earnings and have no social security available. The first image of COVID-19 that India associates with are not ventilators or medical professionals in ICUs but of migrant laborers trudging back to their villages hundreds of miles away, lugging their belongings. Millions of migrant workers were left unemployed in India due to the lockdown and subsequent fear of recession. Many of the migrant workers had returned to their villages, and many more were just waiting for the lockdown to be lifted. On the one hand, lockdowns and social distancing measures were drying up jobs and incomes, whereas they were likely to disrupt agricultural production, transportation systems, and supply chains on the other. This posed a challenge of ensuring food security and controlling already rampant malnutrition, particularly among children, which was likely to result in increased infant and child mortality. There is a need to relook at the national migration policies, which should accommodate the assistance and protection of migrants arriving from, or faced with the prospect of returning to, areas affected by health crises. Also, there is a need to establish resilient food systems that could reduce food insecurity and the pressure to return to origin among migrants. This paper explores and lists the changes needed and makes recommendations for the same. Even as the pandemic continues to rage, we have to put safety nets to meet the wave!

Keywords

Migration, COVID-19, recession, lockdown, labour

Introduction



On 24 March 2020, an unforeseen nationwide lockdown was announced, without any concern for those who accounted for more than 90% of the workforce in the country's unorganised sectors, especially daily wage workers, of which a significant share consisted of migrant workers. An overwhelming majority of workers were left to their own fate which resulted in the unprecedented, tragic and desperate mobility of hundreds of thousands of utterly vulnerable workers, whose jobs had suddenly disappeared. Most faced hunger or homelessness because they could not work, and took to highways to reach their native home barely 3 days after the announcement of the lockdown. The images of distress and exodus of workers, clutching their meagre belongings, often carrying children and elderly on their shoulders and backs and trudging hundreds and thousands of kilometres, determined to somehow reach their 'home', were reported both in the print and visual media for several weeks for the subsequent period. These people had lost not only their jobs but also their abode, with no hope of support from their employers or the government; many died on the way, of hunger, exhaustion and accidents. These were ultimate images of precariousness in India since the forced mobility during the partition in 1947; 'citizens' had been turned into 'outsiders'. It seemed as if, at least for a few weeks, the government was in a state of paralysis, with respect to this massive mass of humanity.

However after a few weeks, the Central and State Governments arranged transport facilities for the workers. Upon their return to their hometowns, migrant daily workers were feared to be carrying COVID-19 infection from the urban areas where they had been employed. Migrants who traveled by trains have reported that food and water were not provided properly and were dumped at the train's entrance, leaving behind the laborers fighting for their share of resources. There are about 139 million daily laborers in the country, according to the World Economic Forum. The International Labour Organization had said that due to the pandemic and the lockdown, about 400 million workers had been poverty-stricken. Migrant laborers in the country are mostly from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, followed by Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.

The cities of Mumbai and Delhi have recorded the highest number of migrant workers. They mainly comprise daily-wage laborers working in the manufacturing industries and constructions. They are often denied adequate healthcare, nutrition, housing, and sanitation, as many of them work in the informal sector. Daily-wage laborers are mostly from rural areas but are found in cities for work and many workers have no savings and live in factory dormitories, which were shut down due to the lockdown. Additionally, there is no central registry of migrant workers, despite the existence of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act. This article focuses on the huge difficulties that India's workers have confronted during the COVID-19 pandemic, need to establish resilient food systems that could reduce food insecurity and it seeks to investigate the causes and policy solutions during the current and ongoing crisis of employment and livelihoods.

Materials and Methods

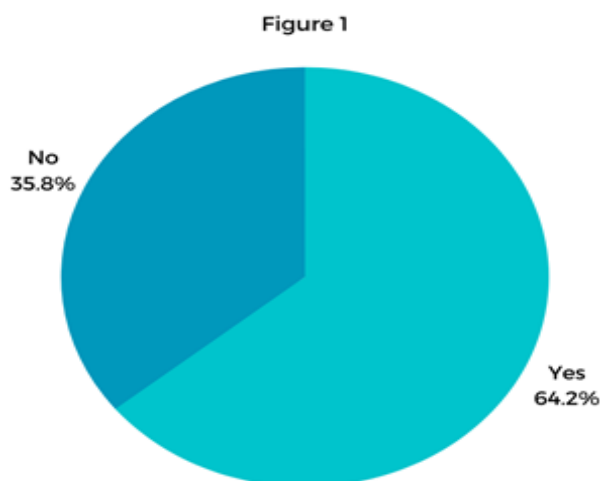
This study had a sample size of 120 participants from different labour chowks. The survey was conducted by August 2021 in Mumbai Suburban district. The sampling method used was simple random sampling with minimal sampling bias. The interview comprised 8 questions and each output variable is represented in the form of a pie chart.

Interview Questions

- Did you experience lack of work or joblessness during demonetization and GST implementation years i.e. 2017-18?
- Have you migrated from other places to Mumbai for work or permanently settled here?
- Do you migrate to Mumbai during the non-agricultural season?
- What is your median monthly earning?
- Do you have a second source of income?
- How many days of ration was left when the 1st nationwide lockdown was imposed?
- Did you go back to your native homes when the initial lockdown was imposed in March, 2020?
- How did you travel back to your native home?

Results and Discussion

The survey was conducted among 120 volunteers from different labour chowks in Mumbai suburban district. Figure 1 shows that 64.2% daily wage workers experienced lack of work or joblessness during demonetization and GST implementation years i.e. 2017-18. The crisis in the world of work in India, to a great extent, is rooted in the neoliberal policy regime of the last three decades, in particular the extreme disruptions due to demonetisation and GST and the utter mismanagement subsequently. Significant job losses due to the shocks of demonetisation and complications of GST during 2017 and 2018, leading to large-scale retrenchment of workers. In short, the world of work, which in any case has been fraught with multiple and increasing vulnerabilities almost throughout the neoliberal era, entered into an even more fragile phase during approximately the last quinquennium, that is, on the eve of the COVID-19 pandemic.



And as we know, soon after the incidence of COVID-19 cases started picking up, a lockdown was imposed on the country, at a notice of 4 hours. The most significant fallout of this measure was the disappearance of millions of jobs, and the particularly heart-wrenching aspect of it was the distress of

migrant workers who were forced to trudge along to get back to their distant homes. Figure 2, shows that 20% volunteers had migrated from other districts in search of work to Mumbai but within the same state. Around 26.7% of the total volunteers had migrated from other states. The migration of workers is more in urban areas due to the availability of employment opportunities. Internal migrants form a crucial part of India's economy. The Economic Survey 2016–2017 estimated that there are an estimated 100 million internal migrants in India, which make up about 20 per cent of the total workforce. They contribute an estimated 10% of India's economic output (Al-Jazeera, 2020) and play an important role in the economy of the country. Many of the internal migrants travel from poorer states such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in the north to work in the industrial hubs of more developed states like Gujarat and Maharashtra in the south, or to the metro cities.

Figure 2

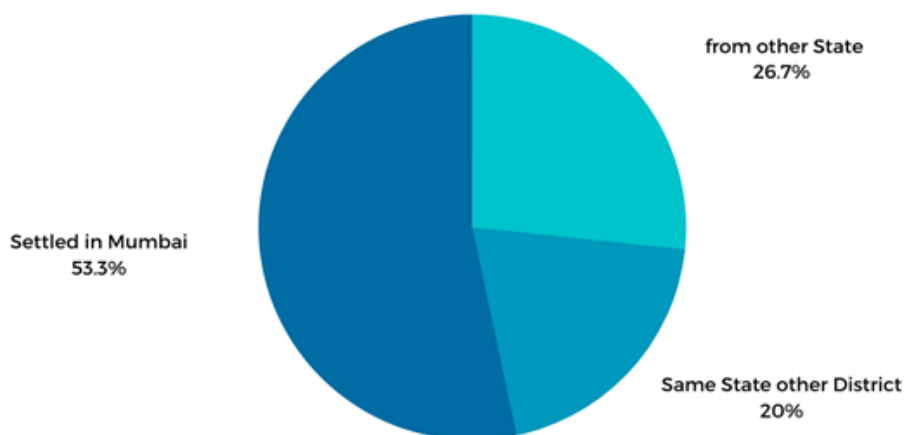
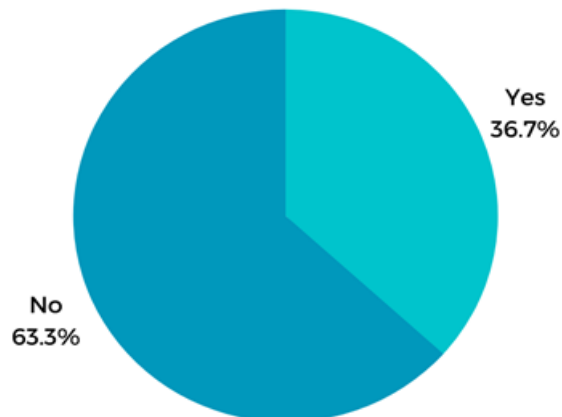


Figure 3 shows that only 36.7% volunteers who participated in this study migrated to Mumbai during the non-agricultural season. They depart from remote villages seeking work in large cities to support families whom they usually leave behind. There are a range of motivations for seasonal and temporary migrant workers to live and work in Mumbai; The most common motivation was financial, to earn money and send remittance back home. Figure 4 shows that 40% percent of total participants had a second source of income which also includes seasonal migrants who returned to their homes during agricultural months to aid their families in farming. According to Figure 5 of the 120 people interviewed 26,7% had a median monthly earning of Rs. 5000, most people fell in the median earning bracket of Rs. 8000 per month- 59.2%, 10% participants earned Rs. 10,000 as median monthly earning and not very surprisingly only 4,2% workers interviewed earned more than Rs. 10,000 monthly. The monthly earning figures include income from secondary sources too.

Figure 3



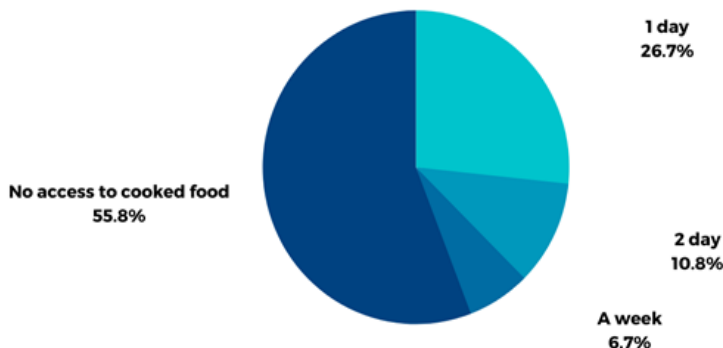
Migrant labourers who come to Mumbai in search of work are forced by skyrocketing housing prices to live on rent in cramped, dirty and unsafe conditions often in slums and pay rent from somewhere around Rs. 600 to Rs. 2000 a month. What remains is spent on survival and sending remittance back home. Hardly any penny earned gets saved. The near closure of economic activity with a 4-hour notice created complete chaos and havoc for an overwhelming majority of the workers, who did not have any social security or requisite means to withstand the challenges associated with such a huge disruption and uncertainty in their economic lives.

Figure 4



Of course, it is not easy to have precise estimates of the unprecedented shock to the world of labour, but it is reasonable to assume that for the first few weeks, at least four-fifths of the country's workforce must have been impacted in serious ways, given that economic activities in general were shut down almost entirely. As per Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) estimates, more than 120 million jobs were lost, that is, close to one-fourth of the workers had been deprived of their employment. Furthermore, as we know from the official estimates now, the GDP growth in the first quarter of 2020 (April–June) has been put at -24%.

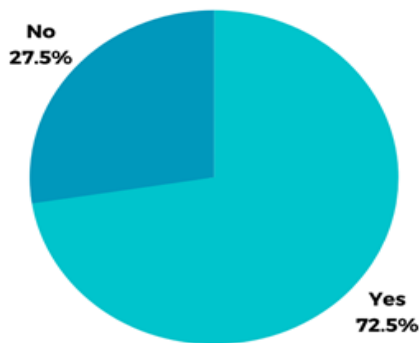
Figure 6



From the findings of our survey and as stated in Figure 6 only 6.7% labourers interviewed had ration for a week. 10.8% had ration left maximum for two days while 26.7% people had ration only for a day. Horrifically 55.8% of total workers interviewed at various labour chowks said they didn't have access to cooked food. Maharashtra was among the worst-performing states concerning workers' access to food. In Maharashtra, close to 95% of workers had no access to the government ration. This left no choice for the migrant workers but to return to their villages.

Figure 7 shows that out of 120 workers interviewed 72.5% went back to their native homes when the initial lockdown was imposed in March, 2020. This figure not only includes workers who had migrated for work to Mumbai from other states or other districts of the same state but also daily wage labourers who had settled in Mumbai. No work meant no wages and no wages meant no money for paying off rent and buying ration. Huge numbers of laborers from a few states go back to their native places by walking. As also stated in Figure 8 nearly 65.5% of workers interviewed who went back to their native homes travelled this distance on foot.

Figure 7



The migrants were unemployed as organizations and foundations had shut down. In the absence of money, jobs, food, savings, or shelter in large cities, they were desperate to reach their villages. They took to highways, hungry, tired and helpless walking for miles.

Figure 8



Many NGOs and individuals came to their rescue providing those water bottles, meals and other aid however countless migrants died on their way because of the absence of food. After a few weeks, the Central and State Governments arranged transport facilities for the workers. 34.5% of workers interviewed stated that they went back by trains or buses provided by the government. But Migrants who traveled by either trains or buses have reported that food and water were not provided properly and were dumped at the entrance, leaving behind the laborers fighting for their share of resources. Upon their return to their hometowns, migrant daily workers were feared to be carrying COVID-19 infection from the urban areas where they had been employed. They also faced assault and harassment from the people in their hometowns. These laborers meet their economic crises by borrowing money.

Conclusion

When large-scale population migration occurs as a direct result of a health crisis, the movement mostly tends to be internal, temporary and early on in the health crisis. It generally happens to regions directly outside the immediate crisis zone, and mostly happens because of misunderstandings and panic, including financial crisis or fear of losing a job as was experienced in India. A major challenge raised by the pandemic was food security and nutrition. On the one hand, lockdowns and social distancing measures were drying up work and incomes, whereas they also disrupted agricultural production, transportation systems and supply chains on the other. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the weakness of the global food system, with hunger becoming a critical issue in most countries. With slowing agricultural growth, expanding populations and resource constraints, achieving food and nutrition security will remain a major challenge long beyond the pandemic. A few policy changes are essential to improve India's hunger situation:

Universal PDS and supplementary programmes for nutrition

The plight of migrant workers at the height of the pandemic showcased that the lack of a universal PDS is a major limitation in achieving food security. The 'one nation one ration card' scheme should be

operationalised through the proper issuance of ration cards to individuals seeking foodgrain so that the PDS can be accessed at any geographical location in the country.

Increased budget, technology, and research and development

In the 2021-22 Union Budget, funding allocations for the health sector have been nearly doubled due to the pandemic. The Budget also allocated more funds towards agricultural credit, and for the promotion of animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries sector. But merely allocating funds will not be enough for a nation that is home to about a third of the world's malnourished children. With supply-side constraints, the role of research and development is crucial as it can offer long-term solutions for Indian agriculture. Farmers' access to the latest research can help in improving seed quality, decreasing pest and disease problems, increasing crop sustainability, reducing irrigation problems, lessening incidents of soil erosion, and increasing productivity to feed a burgeoning population. In the fight against food insecurity, the global community needs to understand country-specific food security policies instead of constraining developing countries with limits under the WTO rules. The pandemic is a wakeup call for the world to ensure food security for all.

Though there is no official data available, it is estimated that currently there are at least 10 crore migrant labourers, accounting for 10% of India's GDP. Despite their contribution, their interests have not been effectively met. Unlike farmers, who benefit (though inadequately) from several government schemes and labourers in rural areas who benefit from MNREGA — migrant labourers receive no formal government support. There is a need to implement a comprehensive national strategy for migrant labour welfare. In light of the lessons learned on the plight of India's migrant labourers, the following aspects must be incorporated in our country.

National migrant labourers data-base and unique identity

A unique Aadhar linked identification card must be generated for every inter-state migrant labourer. This Aadhar linked identification must be linked to the JAM trinity (Jan-Dhan, Aadhar and mobile) and would bring them under the formal net. Receiving benefits that are designed for migrant labourers, including cash transfers, must be contingent on obtaining this identity.

Comprehensive skill development roadmap

India's vast migrant labourers would continue to be short-changed, so long as they are low or not skilled. With rapid technological progress changing the landscape of employment across all industries, India's migrant labourers need to be enabled to not just be relevant, but also to take advantage of these changes. Training of India's ten crore migrant labourers with industry relevant vocational skills would go a long way in making India a global manufacturing hub. The wages that the migrant labourers receive must also be indexed with the skills they possess.

Migrant Labourer Provident Fund

The government must enact a law that institutionalises a provident fund covering all migrant labourers. A fixed amount must be determined, based on parameters such as age and skill levels, and must be deposited into a dedicated provident fund account. This contribution must be jointly made by the central, destination

state and home state governments. This fund would act as a social net for the migrant labourers and their families.

The coronavirus epidemic has come with extraordinary, intense uncertainty. It is difficult to estimate how long and to what extent the impact of the epidemic will be on the lives of people and the economy of the country. The government has to come up with a well-crafted strategy to deal with this crisis. At the national level, greater coordination is required between government agencies separately tasked with migration and health mandates. As mentioned earlier there is also a need to relook at the national migration policies, which should accommodate the assistance and protection of migrants arriving from, or faced with the prospect of returning to, the areas affected by health crises. Establishment of resilient food systems could reduce food insecurity and the pressure to return to origin among migrants. More research is required on the impact of health crises on migration, particularly in distinguishing health from other motivations to migrate.

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Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Internal Migrant Labours in India

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Abstract

COVID-19 pandemic is a universal health crisis that has put the entire world economy at a halt. The pandemic impact on the migrant economy cannot be ignored. India is not exceptional to this and has gone beyond public health to social and economic issues, especially for migrant workers. Since, the union government imposed restrictions on mobility, commercial activities and social interactions under lockdown measures to tackle the spreading Corona virus since March 2020. However, the leader-centric approach keep in mind the lockdown implications on the lives of migrant, underprivileged, or marginalised groups of the country which need to be discussed. Immediate matters of concern are food, shelter, healthcare, loss of job, survival of family, anxiety, and fear etc. In this context, this paper aims to shed light on the vulnerability of India's internal migrants in terms of their mobility, gender, mental health and other issues in a detailed manner. Also looks into the Government initiatives in solving problems of migrants during the lockdown period. In addition, it critically analyses the limitations of public policy in addressing migrants and suggests recommendations for the way ahead.

Keywords

India, migrant workers, gender, internal migration, labour laws

Introduction

Migration is a universal phenomenon, and its origin can be traced to the origin of humankind. As we know that, migration is the act of leaving one place to other place in terms of looking for employment, better livelihoods, etc., the national and international organizations are defined migration as same. Furthermore, the globalization is the primary reason which influencing the movement of people. In the Indian context, its border has been experiencing the political, religious and commercial movement of people. India is one

of the leading workforce exporting countries in the world, with more than twenty-five million Indians are residing abroad and became one of the largest Diasporas next to Chinese.

Migrants are playing a significant role in the economic growth and development of the both regional and national level. In addition, they also benefit individuals as well as communities' development. However, Migration is not in a single form, it is voluntary migration and forced migration. When we talk about the voluntary migration, it includes the labour migration which consists of internal and international labour migrants. These labour migrants are work as housemaids, cooks, drivers, and construction workers. However, most of internal migrants are sessional workers who come in particular time period.

The Covid-19 pandemic has severely impacted millions of migrant workers around the globe in general and India in particular. Borders were sealed, transportation got stopped, factories, shops, restaurants and all types of economic activities were shut, barring only the essential services. This proved to be a nightmare for hundreds of thousands of migrant workers, who lost their livelihoods overnight and became homeless. The immediate challenges faced by these migrant workers were related to food, shelter, loss of wages, fear of getting infected, and anxiety. As a result, thousands of them started fleeing from various cities to their native places. Many migrants lost their lives either due to hardship on the way, hunger, accident, or comorbidity and some even committed suicide (Jan Sahas, 2020).

The majority of the workers were the daily wage earners and at the time of lockdown, 42 percent were left with no ration, one third was stuck at destinations city with no access to food, water, and money, 94 percent do not have identity card as a migrant worker. Sudden lockdown also stranded many migrants in different cities of the country (Yadav, 2020). Those who were traveling were stuck up at stations or state or district borders. Many were forced to walk hundreds of miles on foot to reach their home villages finding no public transport. Those who reached their native villages were seen as potential carriers of the infection and were ill-treated by the police and locals. In one of the instances, a group of returnees was sprayed with chemicals to disinfect them for which the local administration apologized (Srivastava, 2020).

Table 1: Migration Intensity, Share of Inter-Sate Migrants and Covid-19 Cases in Mega Cities, India, 2011

Urban Agglomeration (UA)	Percentage migrants to population	Of % Share of total migrants to total inter-state migrants	Number of COVID cases in the respective districts as on 13 th April 2020 (Total Cases by district 6761)
Delhi	43.1	87.8	898
Greater Mumbai	54.9	46.0	880
Kolkata	40.8	18.2	29
Chennai	51.0	11.8	149
Bruhat Bangalore	52.3	35.1	71
Hyderabad	64.3	7.1	236
Ahmedabad	48.7	24.1	134
Pune	64.8	22.3	190
Urban India	47.0	21.6	Share of Covid-19 cases in these metro cities to total cases is 38 %

Source: Census of India 2011, D3 (Appendix) Migration Table,

<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/DistrictWiseList354.pdf> accessed on 13th April, 2020)

The incidence of COVID-19 shows that these metropolitan areas are the centres from where the disease has been spreading to the near as well as far off places. Migrant workers constitute backbone of Indian economy. Out of 482 million workers in India about 194 millions are permanent and semi-permanent migrant workers (Fig 2). In addition, there are about 15 million short-term migrant workers of temporary and circulatory nature (Keshri and Bhagat, 2012). The COVID 19 has affected the most the latter following the all India lock down. In general, in-migration rates were higher in high-income states such as Delhi, Goa, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka, whereas low-income states such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Odisha reported relatively higher rates of out-migration. There are conspicuous migration corridors within the country – Bihar to Delhi, Bihar to Haryana and Punjab, Uttar Pradesh to Maharashtra, Odisha to Gujarat, Odisha to Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan to Gujarat (Srivastava, 2020).

The lockdown and other stringent measures undertaken by central and state governments in India to contain the spread of the corona virus and save lives have resulted a heavy shadow on the economy. Through large scale disruptions in supply chains and collapsing demand, has been pushed into a recessionary spiral. In India, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) which is the backbone of the economic activity, have pushed out of business, leaving millions migrant workers out of jobs and no alternate means of livelihood. Majority of the migrant workers in India lacks social protection and safety cushions given the informal nature of their work. Henceforth, livelihoods of migrants have been severely compromised, putting them at high risk of falling into extreme poverty. The pandemic has highlighted existing inequalities while new forms of exclusion. Tourism, global trade and remittances which are important sources of foreign exchange have also been affected significantly. It is very considerable loss of income for migrant workers and will have severe social consequences for the livelihoods and wellbeing of migrants (ESCAP, 2020).

MSMEs play a pivotal role in the economic performance in terms of export earnings, employment generation and GDP contribution to Indian economy and which have been hit hardest which due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Labour shortages, supply chain disruptions and liquidity crunch could make it difficult for the MSMEs to survive the pandemic imposed shocks and re-activate their business.

Corona virus outbreak can lead to a loss of livelihood for those who either work on short-term contracts or those who are without any job contracts. This includes several jobs in different industries. For example, in tourism industry, guide, employees of parking contractors, cleaners, waiters in restaurants, suppliers of vegetables and flowers to the hotels and so on. A similar scenario would likely to prevail in other industries (like manufacturing and non-manufacturing) mainly because of the falling demand. Manufacturing industries such as cement, plastics, rubber, food products and textiles would reduce substantial jobs. Transportation sector is also badly affected. This will lead to the cut down of job market (especially those who are employed) and also make hardship for job creation. Besides, this will also have an effect on pay-cuts and late increments. India is likely to face the job crisis because of the COVID 19. Migrant workers and workers in informal sector are likely to be badly hit (ILO, 2020).

The Covid-19 pandemic has been severely affected the garment, footwear, construction and agriculture sectors. The inter-state migrant workforce represents the lowest paying and most insecure jobs, in key sectors such as construction, hospitality, textiles, manufacturing, transportation, services and domestic work (BBC 2020).

Implications of the Crisis

The lockdown in India has had a huge negative impact on poor and unorganised sector workers outside agriculture both in rural and urban areas. Among the informal workers, the migrant workers have been impacted most adversely. The Prime Minister's relief package was poorly targeted at them, and subsequent measures announced by states also did not reach a large proportion and were not adequate to support them and their families (Srivastava, 2020).

Government Initiatives

As India has started to relax the lockdown restrictions, some of the migrant population has started going back to the places they work. In the last few days, more than 8000 labourers have returned to Pune after the post-COVID lockdown has been eased (6). Proper monitoring over the migration status is needed. Going forward, the government should keep a few points in mind while tackling migrant or vulnerable populations while facing such pandemic. The first thing to consider is not to have the bureaucratic approach but to use the humanitarian approach which is based on the view that all human beings deserve respect and dignity and should be treated as such. The government failed miserably in implementing this when the news of disinfectant spraying on migrant workers was making headlines across the media channels. It was an inhumane act that compromised the notion of equality in the social realm. Secondly, state and central authorities should ensure that returnees do not face the stigma and discrimination because of their migration status and prevent labelling them as 'carriers' of the disease. This should be considered as an important step to avoid the feeling of 'not belonging'.

This pandemic has unearthed mistakes which should not be repeated in the future. Building a fair and effective labour governance system for the workers is an urgent need of the hour. The government should also provide them with proper communication and counselling for their job search in their respective areas and skill set after their return to home or workplace. Not to forget continuous health care facilities with affordable cost and quality of care to be provided to the migrant workers and their families.

To bring back the economy on track using Atma Nirbhar Bharat Approach of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it is also mandatory to take measures to address the inequality issue and to ensure the dignity of migrant workers. This can be achieved with a set of changes in the policy reforms and legal frameworks that can be drawn from the global standards.

The twisting and churning of Indian migrant economy by COVID-19 pandemic due to lockdown measures has exposed the major gaps in the economy and development of the country. Hence, I think strategic and planned policy changes in the healthcare system, labour law, and upholding the social factors amidst this pandemic can help us win this COVID-19 battle on all fronts.

Conclusion

When migrants flee from the city they not only lose their livelihood but they may carry the infections to their native places (BBC, 2020). In the period of epidemic of HIV/AIDs which broke during 1980s in various parts of the world, migrants were greatly stigmatized as a carrier of the disease and considered to be a population at risk. This has obliterated the great contribution of migrants in economic growth, innovation, skill development and entrepreneurship in building cities and the nation. On the other hand, policies and programmes of urban development and planning in India hardly launched any specific programmes for the migrants as they were not considered as a part of the urban community. Failure to recognize migrants as a stake holder in urban development is one of the biggest mistakes in achieving urban sustainability and realizing the goals of sustainable development in India. It is to be realized that migrants are not a victimizer, nor a victim, but they are vulnerable. They are engaged in many 3D jobs (dirty, dangerous and demeaning) which the so-called urban natives hate to do. Access to social security programmes, access to health care and other entitlements are grossly denied to many migrant workers due to lack of their inclusion in urban society.

The inter-state migrant workforce represents the lowest paying and most insecure jobs, in key sectors such as construction, hospitality, textiles, manufacturing, transportation, services and domestic work. This has created issues including starvation, separation from family and no alternative forms of employment. India's nationwide lockdown amidst the COVID-19 pandemic has critically dislocated its migrants. Lacking jobs and money, and with public transportation shut down, hundreds of thousands of migrants were forced to walk hundreds of miles back to their home villages – with some dying during the journey. As lockdowns around the world increase unemployment, many vulnerable workers will be pushed into more precarious situations and lack protection. Migrants (including domestic migrants) may not be able to get home and may not have access to local healthcare or the same legal rights as local workers. Those without a right to work may be particularly vulnerable at this time. Many migrants live in crowded accommodation or dormitories where social distancing is challenging to implement. They have limited access to personal protective equipment, such as masks or sanitizer.

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted millions of migrant workers around the globe, many of whom have experienced job loss or non-payment of wages, been forced by employers to take unpaid leave or reduced wages, or been confined in poor living conditions. As the crisis continues to unfold, hundreds of thousands of migrant workers have returned with nothing but a few belongings and the prospects of falling further in debt and poverty. Without a proper mechanism, some employers are taking advantage of mass repatriation programs to terminate and return workers who have not been paid their due compensation, wages and benefits. The economic growth fall down -3.2%, expecting GDP growth rate -23%, many workers cannot return to work; business is closed, drop in demand for luxury goods.

There is a fall in remittances expected in 2020, return migration with value ERODED human capital, sacked and evacuated without payment of wages, eight million job lose in turisim, MSME, construction where migration from rural to urban take place, transport, informal sector, retail, agricultural sector, etc. Student worried about ban on F.1 visa for online, discrimination in tuition fee denied for international students. Since the start of the pandemic, millions of migrant workers lost their jobs and have been

repatriated to India alone from different parts of the world. This number is expected to continue to rise exponentially over the next few months. Without a proper mechanism, some employers are taking advantage of mass repatriation programs to terminate and return workers who have not been paid their due compensation, wages and benefits.

A large number of workers from India are facing the wrath of the corona virus pandemic. They have been forced to live under unhygienic circumstances, without any source of income and could not return home due to travel restrictions. The Gulf countries have also imposed a lockdown due to which the livelihood of the workers has been severely impacted. Some companies in Qatar have even stopped paying salaries to foreign workers, according to the report. Despite the lockdown and strict guidelines to the workers by the Gulf governments to stay at home, many companies, especially in the oil and gas sectors are continuously carrying out their production, exposing migrant workers to the deadly virus. While these countries have announced a package to save their economies, least has been done for the foreign workers due to corrupt systems driven with the motive of discrimination. The COVID-19 pandemic will produce unprecedented effects on the migrant economy. Many workers are living under unhygienic conditions and they are not able to return home due to travel restrictions imposed by the Gulf countries.

As mentioned by the lead economist of the World Bank, millions of Indian migrant workers in Gulf countries are facing a crisis due to COVID-19 and the fall of oil price. Amnesty International along with some other organisations have raised a concern about the public health risk of migrant workers by mentioning very common issues such as overcrowded accommodation that compromises social distancing norms. Not only this, considering most of the businesses are shut down because of social distancing and countrywide lockdowns, most of the migrant workers are jobless or looking for a job or stranded in places. They lack income to support food and basic amenities. Some companies have even stopped paying salaries to the foreign workers raising concerns over their basic survival in a foreign land.

Most of the companies working in the oil and gas sector have defied the strict government guidelines of staying at home and following the quarantine protocols by running the production at the normal pace which has put many migrant workers' lives at risk amidst this pandemic(2). While these countries have announced a financial package to protect their economies, the activists have brought the fact in limelight that least has been done for migrant workers in terms of financial help. This can be due to the corrupt system which is driven by the discrimination against foreign workers. Considering the above facts, it is very evident that the future of abroad migrant workers is very uncertain. Also, due to the financial constraint caused by the situation, the Indian government has limited ability to provide support to these workers.

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An Economic Analysis of Indian Emigrants in Saudi Arabia during COVID-19 Pandemic

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Abstract

The current pandemic of Covid-19 has not only changed the life style of billions of persons in the world but also severely disturbed their livelihood. Travel ban and business restrictions has frozen the movement of people, changed the occupational status and consumption pattern of people in almost every country. India is leading country to supply labour (around 18 million) in the world and top remittances receiving country globally from 2008 to 2020-21 and Saudi Arabia is third largest remittances source country in the world. The oil boom of 1970s in the Gulf countries increased the demand for unskilled and semiskilled labour. Majority of the skilled or semi-skilled labour were supplied to the Gulf countries from southern state of India like Kerala or Tamil Nadu and unskilled or semi-skilled labour had been supplied from northern states of India like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The migrants or the refugees in any society agonized the most during any pandemic, hence it is essential to analyze the economic impact of Indian emigrants in Saudi Arabia during the Coronavirus disease. This study is quantitative in nature and based on both primary and secondary data. The sample of 100 unskilled or semi-skilled labour were collected through a structured questionnaire. 60 samples of migrants from Uttar Pradesh and 40 samples of migrants from Bihar were collected through multi-stage sampling technique in the month of March-April 2021. The study has confirmed that remittances and earnings of the migrants had been negatively affected during COVID-19. The loss of earnings and spread of Coronavirus in their native place had a severe mental impact on the migrants. Chi square test result confirms that there is a significant difference of feeling nervous, depress and lonely across the different states of origin of the migrants.

Keywords

COVID-19, economic impact, emotional wellbeing, migrant workers.

Introduction

India is the second most populated country in the world, largest number of Indians (around 18 Million) living abroad and top remittance (USD 83 billion) receiving country in 2020. Saudi Arabia is the third largest destination country for the migrants in the world and hosting largest number of migrants (2.5 million) from India in 2020. In 2020 total remittance to India had just fell by 0.2% as compared to 2019 and with 17% drop in remittances from United Arab Emirates only (WORLDBANK-KNOMAD, 2021). Labour migration to the Saudi Arabia had started from Kerala after the oil boom of 1970s. The expansion of development project in the kingdom after the oil boom created huge demand for unskilled and skilled labour. Most of the skilled labour has been imported from the developed countries and semi-skilled or unskilled labour has been supplied from developing countries like India (Britannica, 2021). Expansion of education in Kerala resulted in supplying of skilled or semi-skilled labour to Gulf countries, however limited expansion of education, lack of employment opportunities, less industrialized state, agriculture occupational state Uttar Pradesh and Bihar supplies labour for the menial work in the gulf countries.

The current pandemic of COVID-19 has not only changed the life style of billions of persons in the world but also severely disturbed their livelihood. Travel ban and business restrictions has frozen the movement of people, changed the occupational status and consumption pattern of people in almost every country. The kingdom had identified its first Coronavirus case on 2nd march 2020, a person returning from Iran via Bahrain (Ministry of Health, 2020). The first Coronavirus death was identified on 23rd march 2020, a 51 year old Afghani resident died in Medina (Aljazeera, 2020). The total number of corona cases spread to 5.45 lakh people and total death reaches to 8,585 till 6 September, 2021(Worlometer, 2021). The mass vaccination drive had started on 17 December 2020 using the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in Saudi Arabia and completely vaccinated 44.6% of its population till 6 September 2021 (Covidvax.live, 2021) (AGENCY, 2021). The government of the Saudi Arabia imposes multiple restrictions to prevent the transmission of Coronavirus such as halting Hajj and Umrah, ban of international flights, temporary shutting of mosques, night curfew, proper lockdown etc. The migrants or the refugees in any society agonize the most during any pandemic. In this context the paper attempts to analyze the economic impact of Indian emigrants in Saudi Arabia during the Coronavirus disease.

Review of Literature

Several studies had been carried out to analyze the impact of Coronavirus on Indian migrant workers. One sample study was carried out to identify the impact of COVID-19 on migrants from rural Bihar. The study reveals the fact that the second wave of Coronavirus majorly affected the migrant's family in Bihar because the first wave of Coronavirus was concentrated to the urban areas and rural agriculture activities has not been much affected. One fifth of the sample respondents went to the destination for work but still waiting to resume the work and 94% of the migrant family has been adversely affected due to spread of Coronavirus (Datt, Dutta, & Mishra, 2021). Another sample study was conducted in the case of the returnee migrant workers of Kerala from Gulf countries. The sample data reveals the fact that 45% of the migrants return to Kerala due to disruption of employment status during Coronavirus pandemic. 10% reported the reason of return being low wages, 5% because of expiry of contract, 15% due to nationalization, 5% due to poor working conditions and 10% due the bad behavior of the employer (Ansari & Rahman, 2021).

Another interesting study was carried out to analyze the economic impact on migrant's workers and remittances in the case of Bangladesh. The study reported that the remittances to Bangladesh rose by 54% in July 2020 compare to December 2019, despite 67% fall in employment. The rose in remittances was result of increase in formal transactions of remittances. The economy was severely affected due to business restrictions and lockdowns, hence employment opportunities for repatriated Bangladeshi migrants remain low in the country (Chowdhury & Chakraborty, 2021). Another study was conducted to understand the main reason of returnee of international migrants in Bangladesh. The study confirms that majority of the migrants (54%) return back to the country due to shutdown of work during pandemic, however 15% of the respondents return back due to visa renewal issue and 15% due to contract renewal issue. The study also confirm that majority of the respondent (69%) maintained their consumption expenditure through savings and 15.5% borrow money to fulfill their basic needs during lockdown period (Jahan, Himel, & Amin).

One study about the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in the case of Kenya based on sample data taken from three counties of Kilifi, Kisumu and Nairobi. The study analyzes the level of disruption even after the one year of Coronavirus spread. In the sample data 42% respondents reported the school disruption, 46% reported mental health problems, 30% of them reported domestic tensions or domestic violence's, 36% reported communal violence's and 44% reported food disruptions (Oyando et al., 2021). Any pandemic influence most of the undocumented migrants in any society. A study on undocumented migrants in Switzerland was undertaken, and result was shown on the basis of 117 samples. The study reveals the fact that migrants faced huge difficulties in accessing the basic necessity during pandemic. Poor mental health and avoidance of health service during the pandemic was exercised by the migrants. Consequently disruption of working hours and reduction of income created a situation for undocumented migrants of unavailability of food. 25% of the respondents reported hunger during the pandemic. Nearly half of the sample migrants did not avail any external assistance during pandemic due to difference in legal status (Burton-Jeangros et al., 2020).

An important study was conducted to measure the economic impact of Coronavirus on Saudi society. The study was based on sample data of 1624 collected in the month of June 2020. The study confirms that 44.6% of the respondents reported loss of his job or his primary income due to pandemic, however 52.8% were worried about losing his job. 51.6% of the respondents were not able to manage his expenses, however 52.6% of the respondents were using his savings to manage the expenses (Alkhamshi, abdulrahman bin Shalhoubm, Hammad, & Alshahrani, 2021). There several studies conducted to measures the impact of coronavirus, however very less effort had been made to measure the impact on migrant workers. The present study will focus to analyze the economic impact of coronavirus on unskilled or semi-skilled Indian male migrants working in Saudi Arabia.

Methodology

The present study attempts to analyze the economic impact on Indian male migrants in Saudi Arabia during COVID-19 pandemic. The study is quantitative in nature and based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data is collected through a well-structured questionnaire. The link of the Google Form questionnaire had shared through different social networking sites such as Facebook, Instagram and Telegram etc. Multistage sampling techniques were used to collect the sample data. The study incorporates

the Indian migrants only, belonging to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (Indian states), working in Saudi Arabia as unskilled or semiskilled labour. A sample of 150 migrants were collected, working in Saudi Arabia and belong to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in the month of march-April 2021. We had not included the responses of skilled labour and incomplete responses into the study, therefore, analysis of the paper is based on 100 samples only. The 60 sample responses belongs to migrants from Uttar Pradesh and 40 sample responses from Bihar were included in to the study.

The survey comprises into three sections. Section-1 includes the question of the demographic profile of the migrants, such as age, religion, education, profession etc. Section-2 of the study included the questions related to the employment status of the migrants, such as working experiences, earnings, remittances, family size etc. Section-3 of the study incorporated the question related to the impact of COVID-19 on migrants such as change in remittances, working hours and well-being of the migrants. The collected data was scrutinized using SPSS (Statistical package for social sciences) version 26. Statistical techniques such as descriptive statistics, paired sample t-test, chi square test were used to analyze the sample data.

Result and Discussion

Demographic profile of the respondent samples

Table 1 illustrates the demographic profile of the migrants from eastern region of India especially from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Majority of the sample migrants (64%) were below the age of 40 years and rest of the migrants were above the age of 40 but less than 60. Bihar were found to be sending more young age (80% below the age of 40) migrants than Uttar Pradesh (53% below the age of 40). The mean age of the migrants from utter Pradesh was 41 years, however mean age of migrants from Bihar was 33 years. The Indian migrants always prefer to migrate in search of work in Saudi Arabia in Gulf region because of its religious sentiment of Islam, therefore majority of the migrants (93%) were Muslims. The educational qualifications now a days in the Gulf region for work is very important and the employer of Saudi Arabia prefer to hire only educated persons.

The sample data reveals that only 9% of the migrants were found to be not educated, however 15% from Bihar and 5% from Uttar Pradesh were found to be not educated. Majority of the migrants (34%) were holding senior secondary schooling certificate only, 21% were high school passed, 30% were graduate and only 6% were post-graduates. The migrants from Bihar were found to be higher educated than the migrants of Uttar Pradesh. More than half (52.5%) of the migrants from Bihar were found to be Graduate or above level of education, however only 25% of the migrants from Uttar Pradesh hold this level of education. Majority of the migrants (70%) from Uttar Pradesh holds only school education, however only 32.5% migrants from Bihar hold this education. Bihar state were found to be sending more young population and highly educated than the migrants from Uttar Pradesh.

Table 1. Demographic Profile of the respondent sample

Age	Uttar Pradesh	Bihar	Total	Percentage	Cumulative %
Below 40	32	32	64	64%	64%
Above 40	28	8	36	36%	100%
Total	60	40	100	100%	
Religion	Uttar Pradesh	Bihar	Total	Percentage	Cumulative %
Muslim	54	39	93	93%	93%
Hindu	6	1	7	7%	100%
Total	60	40	100	100%	
Education	Uttar Pradesh	Bihar	Total	Percentage	Cumulative %
Illiterate	3	6	9	9%	9%
10th	17	4	21	21%	30%
12th	25	9	34	34%	64%
Graduation	13	17	30	30%	94%
Post-Graduation	2	4	6	6%	100%
Total	60	40	100	100%	

Source: Calculated by Authors from sample survey

Working condition of the migrants

Occupational structure of the migrants

Migration from developing countries like India is more of result of push factor or the problems faced in the country of origin. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (Indian states) are characterized by the widespread poverty, huge unemployment, lack of industrialization, infrastructure deficiency and agriculture based economy which force people to migrate. Table 2 describe the profession or occupation of the migrants from these states to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The sample collected data consists of 17% driver, 11% tailor, 13% casual labors, 7% working as salesman, 31% technicians, 8% foreman and 13% belong to other occupations. Majority of the technicians and foreman (70%) were from Bihar, however, only 18% of the technicians were from Uttar Pradesh. This surveyed data shows that around half of the migrants were semi-skilled and half of them unskilled.

Table 2. Profession of the migrants

Profession	UP	Bihar	Total	Percentage	Cumulative %
Driver	16	1	17	17%	17%
Tailor	11	...	11	11%	28%
Labour	11	2	13	13%	41%
Salesman	7	...	7	7%	48%
Technician	11	20	31	31%	79%
Foreman	8	8	8%	87%
Others	4	9	13	13%	100%
Total	60	40	100	100%	

Source: Calculated by Authors from sample survey

Working Experience of the migrants

Table 3 illustrates the working experience of the migrants from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Majority of the migrants (40%) were working in Saudi Arabia for the last 2 to 4 years, 28% were working for the 4 to 6 years and rest 32% were working for above 6 years. The working experience of the migrants from Bihar were found to be more than the migrants from Uttar Pradesh. Majority of the migrants (47.5%) from Bihar were working in Saudi Arabia for more than 6 years, however only 21.6% of the migrants from Uttar Pradesh were working for more than a period of 6 years. More than half (53.3%) of the migrants from Uttar Pradesh were just working in Saudi Arabia in between 2 to 4 years only, however, only 20% of the migrants from Bihar were working in between 2 to 4 years.

Table 3. Migrant's working experience

Working Experience	UP	Bihar	Total	Percentage	Cumulative %
2 To 4	32	8	40	40%	40%
4 To 6	15	13	28	28%	68%
Above 6	13	19	32	32%	100%
Total	60	40	100	100%	

Source: Calculated by Authors from sample survey

Earning & Remittances

According to the latest report published by the World Bank titled as "Migration and Development Brief", India continue to be the largest recipient country in the world since 2008 and Saudi Arabia is the third largest remittance source country in the world after USA and UAE (WORLDBANK-KNOMAD, 2021). Table 4 describes the monthly salary of the Indian migrants in Saudi Arabia and their remittances to India. Majority of the migrants (52%) were earning less than SAR 2500 in a month and 48% were earning above SAR 2500. Migration towards the gulf countries were motivated to feed the family in India, hence remittances to India play an important role for livelihood of the people. The surveyed data reveals that 47% of the migrants were remitting below SAR 1000 (Saudi Riyal) and 53% of the migrants were sending above SAR 1000 in a month to their families. Comparative data of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar reveals the fact that, 58% of the migrants from Uttar Pradesh and 42.5% of the migrants from Bihar were earning below SAR 2500. Remittances data reflects that only 30% of the migrants from Uttar Pradesh and 87.5% of the migrants from Bihar were sending above SAR 1000 to their families in India. Hence, migrants from Bihar is earning more and remitting more than the migrants of Uttar Pradesh.

Table 4. Migrant's Earnings and Remittances

Monthly Salary	UP	Bihar	Total	Percentage	Cumulative %
Below 2500 (SAR)	35	17	52	52%	52%
Above 2500 (SAR)	25	23	48	58%	100%
Total	60	40	100	100%	
Remittances	UP	Bihar	Total	Percentage	Cumulative %
Below 1000 (SAR)	42	5	47	47%	47%
Above 1000 (SAR)	18	35	53	53%	100%
Total	60	40	100	100%	

Source: Calculated by Authors from sample survey

Source of earnings and family structure of the migrants

According to the census data 2011, the average size of the family in India was 4.45 member per household, however average size of the Muslim household was 5.15 member per household (Dhanaraj & Mahambare, 2019). The surveyed data in Table 5 reveals that 38% of the migrants holds 2 to 4 members in the family, however 62% of the migrants hold more than 4 person in the family. The comparative data shows that 90% of the migrants from Bihar hold more than 4 members in the family, however only 43% of the migrants from Uttar Pradesh hold more than 4 members in the family. The researcher also asked to the migrants about the source of earning other than remittances, 80% of the migrants reported that their family was totally dependent on remittances and has no other sources of income. 22.5% of the migrants from Bihar and 18.3% of the migrants from Uttar Pradesh reported income sources other than remittances. The major source of earning other than remittances were agriculture income, income through rent and income from business. 65% were reported income from agriculture, 20% from business, 5% from rent on land and building and 10% from other sources.

Table 5. Migrant's source of income and family structure

Dependents	UP	Bihar	Total	Percentage	Cumulative %
2 to 4	34	4	38	38%	38%
Above 4	26	36	62	62%	100%
Total	60	40	100	100%	
Other source of income	UP	Bihar	Total	Percentage	Cumulative %
Yes	11	9	20	20%	20%
No	49	31	80	80%	100%
Total	60	40	100	100%	

Source: Calculated by Authors from sample survey

COVID-19 and its impact on migrants

The spread of novel Coronavirus was began from the Wuhan city of china in December 2019. The high man-to-man transmission of this virus causes spread all over the world. The world health organization declared the spread of corona virus as pandemic. The preventive measure taken by the government by halting the

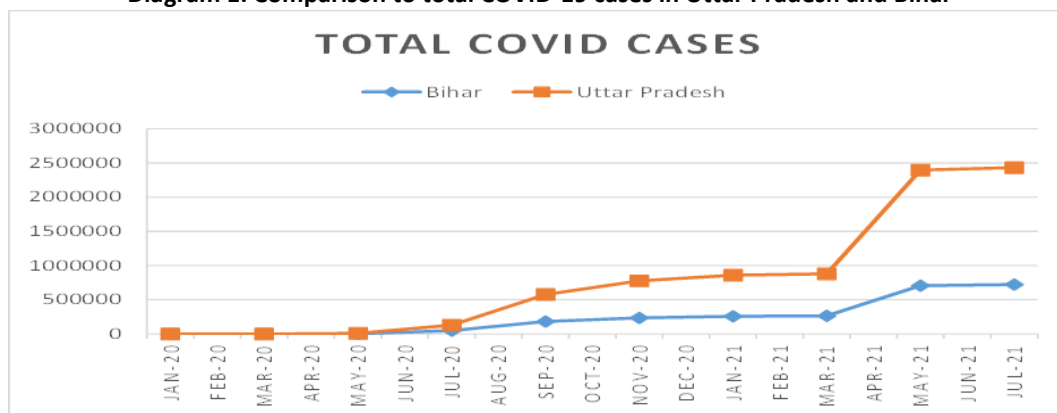
movement of people, restricting the business activities, national and international travel restrictions etc. by majority of the countries in the world. The migrants any country suffer the most during any pandemic, socially, economically and psychologically. The economic impact on the migrants was majorly been affected by the prevailing situation in country of origin and destination country. The impact has been analyzed the following in detail.

Spread of Corona virus in the origin state of the migrants

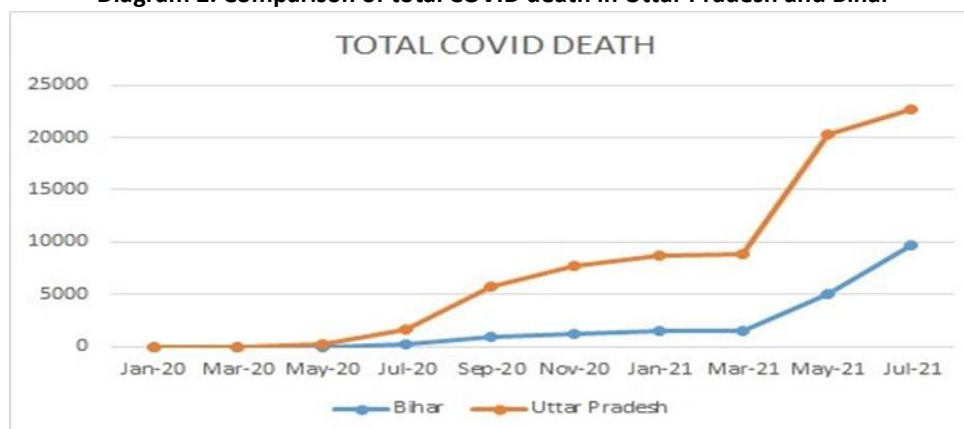
The first corona positive case in Uttar Pradesh was identified on 5th march 2020, the travel history from Iran was founded from that person and belongs to Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. However, the first death in the state was found on 1st April 2020 (NDTV, 2020). Similarly the first corona positive case from Bihar was found on 13th march 2020, a person returned from Qatar and the first death in Bihar was found on 22nd march 2020 (Hindu, 2020a) (tv, 2020). Diagram-1 shows the comparative data of total corona positive cases in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. As depicted in the diagram, in the first phase of the spread of corona virus starts from July-2020 to March 2021. In this phase total corona positive cases in Uttar Pradesh was higher than the total cases in Bihar, however, growth in total positive cases was slow.

The second phase was depicted from March 2021 to May 2021. In this phase the total corona positive case increased drastically. This phase had severely affected the people of Uttar Pradesh, however the effect on Bihar was comparatively better. More than 17 Lakh Corona positive cases in Uttar Pradesh and more than 7 Lakh cases in Bihar has already been reported till July 2021. The comparative data of COVID deaths in both the states is shown in diagram-2. The total Corona death in Uttar Pradesh is higher than Bihar. During the peak of the first phase where highest death were reported from July 2020 to March 2021. Total death in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar was 8800 and 1574 respectively till March 2021. However, total death has drastically increased in the second phase of Coronavirus disease. The total death in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar was reported 22,755 and 9642 respectively till July 2021. During this phase (March 2021 to July 2021) total percentage of increase in the corona death in Bihar was found to be 612% and in Uttar Pradesh total death increases by 258%. Spread of corona virus in the state might influence the mental status of the migrants.

Diagram 1. Comparison to total COVID-19 cases in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar



Source: Calculated by Authors/ prsindia.org

Diagram 2. Comparison of total COVID death in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

Source: Calculated by Authors/ prsindia.org

Working hours of the migrants during lockdown

The kingdom of Saudi Arabia implemented lockdown in the wake of Coronavirus on 25th march 2020, in Riyadh, the national capital and two holy cities of Makah and Medina. However the prime minister of India calls for Janta curfew on 22nd march 2020 from 7 AM to 9 PM and later on announces complete lockdown (on 23rd march) in the entire country from mid-night of 24th march 2020 (Koh, 2020). All the business activities put on hold except the production activity of necessity items, which have affected the job status of millions of people in the kingdom. Table 6 describes that around 43% of the Indian migrants in Saudi Arabia were not worked during lockdown, however, 53% were working but below 8 hours in a day and only 4% of the migrants were working above 8 hours in a day. The comparative data shows that 66% of the migrants from Uttar Pradesh and 7.5% of the migrants Bihar were found to be not working during lockdown, however 30% from Uttar Pradesh and 87.5% from Bihar worked less than 8 hours in a day. Hence, business restriction and lockdown in Saudi Arabia reduces the working hour of the workers.

Table 6. Migrant's working hour during lockdown

Worked During lockdown	UP	Bihar	Total	Percentage	Cumulative %
Not Worked	40	3	43	43%	43%
Below 8 hours	18	35	53	53%	96%
Above 8 hours	2	2	4	4%	100%
Total	60	40	100	100%	

Source: Calculated by Authors from sample survey

Return of migrants to India during lockdown

The government of Saudi Arabia had started imposing restrictions by suspending all its flights on 15th march 2020 and imposed proper lockdown on 25th march 2020 by identifying its first corona case on 2nd march 2020. The complete lockdown in the country, uncertain medical emergency and suspension of all business activities (Other than necessity) forces migrants in the Saudi Arabia to return back to India. The government

of India launched 'Vande Bharat Mission' to bring back stranded Indian citizens abroad on 6th may, 2020. According to latest data of Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India has bring back total 2,307,911 stranded Indian citizens in the country through 15,281 special flights till 10th August 2021. The official sources confirms that majority of the stranded Indian citizens brought back from Gulf countries (aviation, 2021).

Table 7 reports the number of migrants from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar returned back to India during Lockdown. Only 10% of the total sample migrants return back to India, however 90% of migrants did not came back and decided to stay in Saudi Arabia during lockdown period. The comparative data of both the states shows that 13.3% of migrants from Uttar Pradesh and 5% from Bihar were returned back to the country. Several Indian repatriates in abroad complained about the higher flight charges under 'Vande Bharat Mission' and non-affordable for many of them (Times, 2020). Another reason for the migrants to stay in the Saudi Arabia was to show negative RT-PCR test and paid institutional quarantine while landing in India (welfare, 2020). The free and better medical arrangements in Saudi Arabia for migrant workers also motivated the migrants not to return to India.

Table 7. Return of Migrants during Lockdown

Return during lockdown	UP	Bihar	Total	Percentage	Cumulative %
Yes	8	2	10	10%	10%
No	52	38	90	90%	100%
Total	60	40	100	100%	

Source: Calculated by Authors from sample survey

Loss of earning and change in remittances

Table 8 illustrates the loss in migrant earnings during lockdown period. 71% of the migrants reported a loss of below SAR 500 in a month during complete shutdown in Saudi Arabia, however, only 29% of the migrants were reported a loss of above SAR 500 per month during lockdown. The comparative data of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar migrant's shows that more loss were bear by the migrants of Uttar Pradesh. 41.6% migrants from Uttar Pradesh and 10% migrants from Bihar reported a loss of above SAR 500 in a month. According to the official report by the government of Saudi Arabia, employer can cut maximum 30% of the salary for a maximum 6 month during the pandemic. A cut in salary of the migrants will definitely affect the remittances by the Indian migrants.

The surveyed data on remittances before pandemic and during pandemic reveals that 49% of the migrant were sending Below SAR 1000 before pandemic and 56% of the migrants were sending this amount during pandemic. It means that more people start remitting less amount to their families. 53% of the sample migrants were remitting above SAR 1000 before pandemic but only 44% of the migrants were remitting this amount during pandemic. According to the latest report published by World Bank, India is continue to be top remittance receiving country in the world, however remittances in 2020 (USD 83 billion) has fallen by 0.2% as compared to 2019 (USD 83.3 billion) and the projected fall in remittances for the year 2021 will be 3.5% due to low growth rate in developed economy and expected drop in migration to the gulf countries

and increase in returnee from gulf. It was also reported that 1.2 million of migrants return to Kerala only, however there is no official data on total returnee.

Table 8. Migrant's earning loss and change in remittances

Loss of Earnings	UP	Bihar	Total	Percentage	Cumulative %
Below 500	35	36	71	71%	71%
Above 500	25	4	29	29%	100%
Total	60	40	100	100%	

	Remittances (Before Pandemic)			Remittances (During Pandemic)		
	UP	Bihar	Total	UP	Bihar	Total
Below 1000 (SAR)	42	5	47	49	7	56
Above 1000 (SAR)	18	35	53	11	33	44
Total	60	40	100	60	40	100

Source: Calculated by Authors from sample survey

Paired Sample t- Test

Paired sample t-test is used to compare the means of two sample measurement taken from the same object at different point of time. To test the hypothesis of difference in remittance before and during COVID-19 pandemic, t-test was applied. The null hypothesis was 'there is no significant difference in remittances before and during pandemic' and alternative hypothesis was there is a significant differences. To test the hypothesis that remittances before pandemic (Mean = 1.53, Std. Deviation = 0.502) and during pandemic (Mean = 1.44, Std. Deviation = 0.499) means were equal, a paired sample t-test was applied. The correlation between remittances before and during pandemic was found to be 0.754 and $p < 0.001$, which was statistically significant and suggesting the paired sample t-test is appropriate to test the hypothesis. The result of t-test is shown in table 9. The mean and standard deviation were found to be 0.09 and 0.351 respectively, t-statistics is 2.565 with 99 degree of freedom and p-value < 0.05 . Therefore the alternative hypothesis is accepted as there is significant difference in the remittances before and during pandemic.

Table 9. Paired Sample t-Test

Paired sample t-Test					
Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	df	p-Value
0.090	0.351	0.035	2.565	99	0.012

Source: Calculated by Authors from sample survey

Causes of loss in earnings and fall in remittances

The Saudi Arabian government has suspended all the international flights in the wake of corona virus disease from 15th march 2020 to 17th may 2021. Saudi aviation sector will bear a loss of USD 7.2 billion in 2020 estimated by the air transport association, due to the suspension of international flights. Saudi aviation sector provide employment to 287 thousand people, which probably affect the income of the workers in this sector. Government of Saudi Arabia restricted the business activities to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. Restriction in mobility of people reduces the working hours of the migrant workers. According an official report, Government of Saudi Arabia allowed companies to cut salary by 40% in proportion to working hours for a maximum period of six months and also allowed employer can terminate the contract after six month. Several workers in construction sector, industries and hospitality sector faces the salary cut during lockdown.

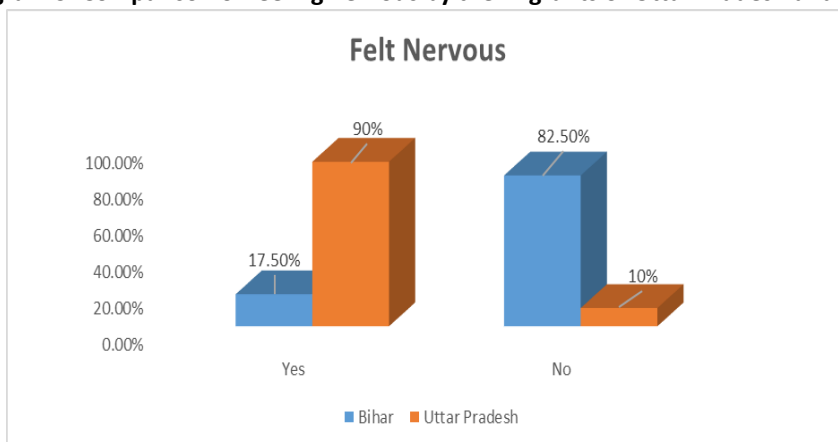
According to a survey conducted by IIMAD (The International Institute of Migration and Development), majority of the repatriated workers belong to Kerala and Tamil Nadu from Gulf countries were industrial workers, construction workers and hospitality sector workers. However, the survey also reveals the fact that 30.7% of the returnee to these state were from Saudi Arabia who had lost their job due to Coronavirus pandemic. Loss in remittances and loss in earnings can be the result of low working hours or loss of job during the pandemic (IIMAD, July 2021). The coronavirus had dual shock for the Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia. Spread of coronavirus restricted the business activities in one side and fall in oil prices due to fall in international demand for petroleum products in other side. Apart from oil shock, suspension of Hajj and Umrah in the year 2020 also influenced the business of millions of people and revenue of the Government of Saudi Arabia (Hindu, 2020b).

Emotional wellbeing of the migrants during pandemic

Feeling nervous during pandemic

The researchers asked the questions related to the wellbeing of the migrants, whether migrants were feeling nervous during pandemic or not. The majority of the respondents (61%) confirmed of feeling nervous due to uncertainty arising due to pandemic, however 39% of the respondent did not felt nervous during the pandemic. The comparative data of feeling nervous between the migrants of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are depicted in diagram-3. 90% of the migrants from Uttar Pradesh reported of feeling nervous however only 17.5% of the migrants from Bihar reported of feeling nervous. The surveyed result confirms that migrants belonging to Uttar Pradesh were more influenced than the migrants of Bihar. The nervousness of the migrants may differ because of the differences in the spread of Coronavirus and Corona death in their respective home of origin. The data of the spread of corona virus and death due to Coronavirus was very high in Uttar Pradesh during the second wave in India, therefore feeling nervousness among the migrants of Uttar Pradesh were high.

Diagram 3. Comparison of feeling nervous by the migrants of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

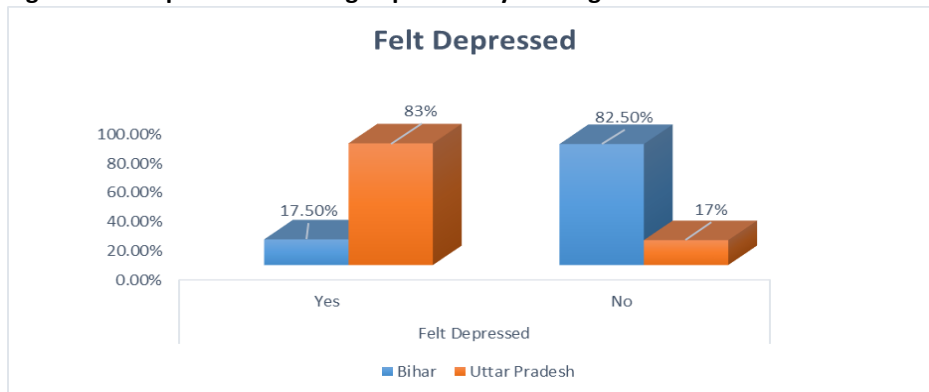


Source: Calculated by Authors from sample survey

Feeling depressed during pandemic

The researchers also try to understand about the prevalence of depression among the migrants. Depression can be defined as a state of unhappiness, loss, anger, or not hoping good to be happened. The spread of Coronavirus has influenced the business life of the people. The surveyed data confirms that 57% of the migrants were depressed, however, 43% of the migrants were responded that they were in depression. The comparative data of feeling depressed is shown in Diagram-4, which confirms that 83% of the migrants belong to Uttar Pradesh and 17.5% of the migrants belong to Bihar were feeling depressed. However 82.5% of the migrants belong to Bihar were shown and their confidence and reported of not feeling depressed. The level of depression can also be understand through their job loss or loss in earnings, 66% of the migrants belong to Uttar Pradesh reported of not working during lockdown period, however, only 7.5% of the migrants were reported of not working during lockdown period. Therefore depression among the migrants belong to Uttar Pradesh were more than the migrants of Bihar.

Diagram 4. Comparison of feeling depressed by the migrants of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

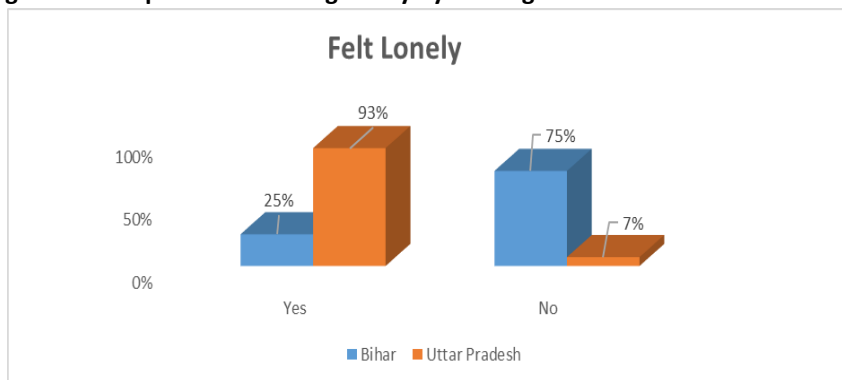


Source: Calculated by Authors from sample survey

Feeling lonely during pandemic

The spread of Coronavirus had restricted the mobility of the people. The working Indian migrants in the Saudi Arabia during pandemic felt lonelier than before because of no work or reduced number of working hours and lack of the mobility of the people during lockdown period. The sample data confirms that 66% of the migrants felt lonely, however 34% do not feel lonely. Feeling lonely can also be understand that 43% of the migrants were not working during lockdown period. The comparative data of the migrants belong to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is shown in diagram-5, which confirms that 25% of the migrants from Bihar and 93% of the migrants from Uttar Pradesh reported of feeling lonely during lockdown period. More migrants from Uttar Pradesh reported of feeling lonely than the migrants from Bihar.

Diagram 5. Comparison of feeling lonely by the migrants of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar



Source: Calculated by Authors from sample survey

Chi-Square Test of emotional well-being within different state of origin

Chi-Square test was applied to find out the association between felt depressed, nervous and lonely across the two different states (Uttar Pradesh and Bihar) of origin, the migrants belong to. The null hypothesis was 'there is no significant difference in feeling depress, nervous and lonely across both the origin of states'. However, the alternative hypothesis was 'there was a significant difference between feeling nervous, depress and lonely across both the origin of state the migrants belong to'. The relationship between these variables (Felt nervous, depress and lonely) was found to be statistically significant. Chi square test result in shown in table-10, as chi square value was found to be 53.02 for felt nervous, 42.43 for felt depressed and 49.94 for felt lonely and p-Value is less than 0.05 (5% level of significance). Therefore, we reject the null hypothesis as there is significant difference of feeling nervous, depress and lonely across the different origin of state of the migrants.

Table 10. Chi square test of emotional well-being within different state of origin

Statement	Chi-Square Value	p-Value
Felt nervous	53.02	0.000
Felt depressed	42.43	0.000
Felt lonely	49.94	0.000

Source: Calculated by Authors from sample survey

Limitations of the study

The current study has some limitations. First the study is based on small sample size of 100 respondent only and responses of skilled labour do not included in the study. The result of the study is only based upon few test and descriptive statistics. The study don't incorporated the female responses or economic impact on female migrants. The current study do not assess the impact of coronavirus on migrant's family, wife or children.

Policy implications

The policy implications from the findings draw attention to the policy makers towards strict measures should be taken to prevent the salary cut due to loss in working hours during pandemic. The government should also implement some cash benefit scheme or unemployment allowances for migrant workers in case of job loss due to restrictive measures taken by the government to prevent the spread of coronavirus. The job status of several migrant workers has changed, the government should take some necessary step to create employment opportunities to resolve the problem of unemployment and underemployment. Government should also make arrangements to check the mental status of the migrants along with physical health and vaccination drive.

Conclusion

Migration of unskilled and semi-skilled labour from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were started after the oil boom of 1970s. The current study observes that majority of the migrants (52%) from these states are earning below 2500 SAR (Saudi Riyal) in a month and remittances were also found to be low, 47% of the migrants reported per month remittances even less than 1000 SAR in a month. However the comparative data of both the states confirms that the migrants from Bihar remitting more money than the migrants from Uttar Pradesh. The study also confirms that majority of the migrants (80%) do not have other source of income except earning from Saudi Arabia. Coronavirus pandemic had deeper economic impact on the migrants, 43% of the respondent confirm that they did not worked during the lockdown period of the pandemic, however, 53% worked less than 8 hours in a day. Most of the migrants remit less amount during the lockdown period than before the lockdown period. The result of paired sample t-test confirms that there is significant difference in remittances before and during pandemic. The study also reveals the fact that the migrants from Uttar Pradesh were felt to be more depressed, nervous and lonely than the migrants of Bihar,

because the spread of coronavirus and death due to Coronavirus were high in Uttar Pradesh in comparison to Bihar. Chi square test result confirms that there is a significant difference of feeling nervous, depress and lonely across the different states of origin of the migrants.

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The Impact of Covid-19 on Life of Workers: A Special Case of Nagaland Economy

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Migration Diaspora and Remittance Review
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Abstract

No one escaped from atrocities of COVID-19 in the world wearing mask and taking vaccines in pandemic times. On Nagaland economy moreover, it squashed entire part of the economy. Nagaland has name for her green is located nearby Myanmar. Broadly to say, the impacts of covid-19 identified as worst play on Nagaland that encouraged more economic problems particularly non-availability of employment for agricultural and Industrial workers throughout. Due to arise of corona pandemic, life of all workers teared severely sans production in the total economy. More importantly examines economic losses of workers while facing unemployment, absence of materials, scarcity of food supply and sequence announcement of lockdown for pandemic period. In pandemic times, workers lost their jobs, cut the wage rates and following income also went down to hell. For instance, workers pushed to fall down face to extreme poverty condition. Workers abundantly expected more financial sources to compete with higher prices and repay higher interest rates to financial institutions.

Keywords

COVID-19, lock down, workers' income, job loss, nagaland, employment.

Introduction

World Health Organization announced the name of the disease caused by the new outbreak of corona virus as COVID -19 on 11 February 2020. In Thailand which is also the first case of COVID-19 found outside China. While the threat of the pandemic COVID-19 is global and it knows no boundaries of class, caste, gender, religions, regions and languages, the poor and migrants are made most vulnerable, facing the threat of the virulent virus as well as the perils of unemployment and consequent hunger, even survival. All over the world, the surprise nationwide lockdown announced by the governments at the end of March. COVID-19

has disrupted life as normal in every aspects health, social, economic, environment, working culture, religious etc.

Covid-19 Cases in the World and India: According to situation report, India- WHO, the first confirmed case in India was detected in Kerala on 30 Jan. 2020 in a student returned from Wuhan City. On 14 March 2020 the confirmed cases reached to 84 and on 28 March it reached 909 in India. The government of India, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared a nationwide Lockdown on 24 March 2020 till 17 May 2020 (Nistula Hebbar, 2020). As on 26 May 2020 since after first case on 30 Jan 2020, India having 138,845 confirmed cases and 4,021 deaths with highest numbers includes the States of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. Since April, India has been battling an upsurge of the second wave of COVID-19 and across the country; hospitals are running out of beds, oxygen supply and medical supplies. Experts predict the surge will affect most states of India's northeast region. Close proximity and interconnectedness of the states make Nagaland very susceptible to a dangerous second wave.

Covid- Pandemic in Nagaland: As the virus spreads into the hilly remote areas of Nagaland, the villages in Nagaland are fighting the pandemic with the current healthcare infrastructure, challenging terrains for transfer of medical supplies, frequent power cuts, limited healthcare workers and inadequate medical supplies. Amid the alarming positivity trends, and increasing number of cases and deaths, the government has proactively begun to install oxygen plants and procure medical supplies. The COVID-19 pandemic reached the state of Nagaland on 22 May 2020, with its first case confirmed on 25 May 2020. Officially, Nagaland is the last of the northeastern states after Sikkim to report COVID-19 positive cases (Karmakar & Rahul, 2020). The returnees, mostly students and migrant workers, had started their journey from Chennai on 19 May.

Review of literature

Shivaji Sarkar (2021) mentioned that the repeated natural disasters and covid 19 lockdowns are taking a heavy toll on India's economy and hit the informal sectors most. The raging second covid wave is impacting states' finances. The centre government has released Rs 8837.6 crore in advance as the first installment of its share to State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for 2020-21. It is a huge sum for a country subsisting budget expenses on debt. Nicola et al. (2020) have summarized the socioeconomic outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic. The demand for goods and service in all the sectors has decline drastically. Fear of buying due to measures like social distancing, isolating oneself, and complete ban on travels has led to shortages in stores. Healthcare and pharmaceutical industries have been experiencing a high healthcare cost and a huge shortage of medical institutions beds and PPE. Hospitality, tourism, and aviation industries are facing serious losses all over the world. The global oil price has dropped and reduction in chemical industry production has been predicted around 1.2 %. It has affected learners as instructional institutions stay closed.

Stojkoski et al. (2020) have analyzed the impact of socioeconomic factors like health infrastructure, demographic and economic determinants. The outcome exhibits that per capita income, population, and health spending have positive impact on COVID cases per million. Parameters like life expectancy, lack of hygiene, population density have a negative impact on the registered COVID-19 cases. Karmakar Sumir

(2020) reported that behalf of the North East Tea Association (NETA) states that Assam would be witnessing a loss of Rs. 1,218 crores in tea Industry due to Lockdown. Assam supplies more than 50% of India's tea production and due to prolonged lockdown 35% of the plantation needs to be skiffed, which will add to extra cost. Patel et al. (2020) the study spotlight the stumpy socioeconomic position causes by COVID-19 pandemic. Higher level of population, unemployment and fall in income conditions of workers working in unorganized sector suffer the most in almost all over the countries. According to him, poverty makes an individual more exposed and hence vulnerable to COVID-19. He then noted that the policymakers to introduce long-term legislation to improve social welfare measures.

Alstadsaeter et al. (2020) Finding shows that COVID-19 pandemic shock in Norway has a sturdy socio-economic inclined, as it has disproportionately affected the financially inclined population, including old age, parents with younger children. Beland et al. (2020) discuss mixed effects across occupations distribution and employees in the US economy. They show that occupations that have a higher share of employment working remotely were less affected by COVID-19. On the other hand, occupations with comparatively more workers working in proximity to others were more affected. They also find that occupations categorized as 'more exposed to disease' are less affected.

Bonadio et al. (2020) used quantitative methods to show a global lockdown as slimming down in labour supply for 64 countries. The authors find that the average decline in actual GDP constitutes a major contraction in economic activity, with a share attributed to disruptions in global supply chains. Elenev et al. (2020) explained the impact of COVID-19 as a fall in worker productivity and a decline in labor supply which subsequently affects firm revenue. The fall in income and the subsequent non-repayment of debt service obligations create a wave of corporate defaults, which might bring down financial intermediaries.

Methodology

For identify the impacts of Covid-19 on workers in specified region is not possible without appropriate data, at this point advantage of availed data report was carried out. Additionally, to distinguish explore the impacts on workers enlarge the scope to next level.

Study Area

The population of Nagaland as per Census 2011 is 19,78502 consisting of 953853 females which accounts for 48.21% of the total population and 1024649 which is 51.69% of the total population. The sex ratio is 931 females per 1000 males. During 2018, the female Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) was 13 compared to the male IMR of 2 and the overall IMR was 7, reduced substantially from 15.8 in 2011. However, Nagaland has lower IMR as compared with the national IMR. Registration of Live Births recorded for female and male were 21282 and 24387 respectively, while during 2018 it was recorded at 23757 and 23600 for male and females respectively. Below is the Nagaland district wise population as per Census 2011 and 2020 projection. Subsequent rises in Covid-19 cases, the government of Nagaland Tuesday announced a full lockdown for a week starting from 6 pm on May 14 and continue till May 21. The government had earlier announced stricter restrictions (but not a complete lockdown) from April 30 including closure of all education institutions, cinema halls and auditoriums, among others, as well as a curb on public gatherings.

These will continue till the new lockdown starts, the statement said. The decision comes in view of the recent surge in cases, especially in Kohima and Dimapur, with the latter reporting the highest number of active cases 1,633 as of May 7. Currently, the state has 2,884 active cases on Monday, 133 positive cases were reported. At least 10 people died, taking the toll to 150. The number of confirmed cases in entire North East reached to 50 on 17 March and 100 on 5 May 2020. For North eastern states, in Assam first case was confirmed on 31 March 2020. Nagaland has 03 fresh confirmed cases Nagaland has 03 confirmed cases, no death (Rahul Karmakar, 2020). On 25 May, the reported the first official cases in the state three people who returned from Chennai on 22 May tested positive for the novel coronavirus (Utpal Parashar , 2020). As of 26 June, the total number of cases in Nagaland was 371, including 209 active cases and 162 recoveries. On 20 July, total number of cases in Nagaland crossed 1000 mark (Outlook India, 2020).

Impacts of Covid19 on Life of Workers in the World: Global growth is estimated to have contracted by almost 5 percent in 2020, representing the largest economic crisis in a generation (World Bank, 2020). At the beginning of the year, at the onset of the pandemic, consumer spending began to decline dramatically, most notably in retail and recreation. By April, visits to restaurants, cafes, shopping centres, theme parks, museums, libraries, and movie theatres had declined globally by almost 60 percent. By December, almost 15 million airline flights had been cancelled, an average of 50,000 per day. While the global economy began to rebound in the summer, many countries were gripped by a second wave in the autumn and winter. Such dramatic economic downturns have had profound effects on the global labour market. As of January 2021, more than 90 percent of the world's workforce lived in countries where business closures were still in place for at least some economy sectors.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human life worldwide and presents an unprecedented challenge to public health, food systems and the world of work. The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic is devastating: tens of millions of people are at risk of falling into extreme poverty, while the number of undernourished people, currently estimated at nearly 690 million, could increase by up to 132 million by the end of the year (Kimberly Chriscaden , 2020). Millions of enterprises face an existential threat, nearly half of the world's 3.3 billion global workforce are at risk of losing their livelihoods. Due to COVID-19 crisis many workers who have suffered job losses and Unemployment has also increased in many countries. Informal economy workers are particularly vulnerable, without source of an income earning during lockdowns they lose jobs, many are unable to feed themselves and their families. For most, no income means no food, or, at best, less food and less nutritious food being hardest hit. Further, when experiencing income losses, they may resort to negative coping strategies, such as distress sale of assets, predatory loans or child labour.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), global working hours declined by 17.3 percent in the second quarter of 2020. This is equivalent to 495 million full-time jobs lost. These dramatic reductions in working hours have been accompanied by equally dramatic reductions in income. Global labour income declined by 8.3 percent in 2020, amounting to a loss of USD 3.7 trillion, or 4.4 percent of global GDP. Roughly 178 million young people 1 in 4 of the global working population between the ages of 15 and 24 worked in the hardest-hit sectors when the pandemic began. Approximately, 1.6 billion informal sector workers have seen their hours decrease since the onset of the pandemic, in low-income countries drop earnings is estimated to be 86 percent. More than 75 percent of young workers are also informally employed. In low-

income countries, this percentage climbs to above 90 percent. Between February and July 2020, employment among adults declined by 5.1 percent, while employment among young adults fell by 17.4 percent, more than three times as much.

Impacts of Covid-19 on Life of Nagaland Workers: COVID-19 and its impacts on Nagas are observable at many levels. These disruptions invite reflections. Naga migrants apparently bear the most devastating impact of COVID-19 and the measure of lockdown. Migrants and their labours will continue to be needed for the economy. As reflect towards a life post-COVID-19 (Atola Longkumer, 2020).

Impact on Agriculture, Industry & Tourism: The lockdown came up in the harvesting season, due to which many of the crops got rotten in the field itself as the crops could not be supplied to the market due to lockdown. This has caused a heavy loss in the agriculture and rural economy as well. The lockdown has drastically brought down the production in various industries and tourism Industry in north eastern states including Nagaland (Bajaj Simran, 2020). The outbreak of COVID-19 and the disruption caused to the horticulture sector in Nagaland has negatively impacted the state's pineapple farmers. Organic pineapple is considered one of the signature crops of Nagaland. According to the Directorate of Horticulture in Nagaland, only 193 metric tons of pineapples were sold to Assam and 195 metric tons within the state till August 13. The price of a pineapple varies from Rs 15- 25 in wholesale. Pineapple seller also complained about reduced earnings due to lesser number of travelers on the highways. Farmers have planted more than 1 lakh pineapples in their farm. Due to pandemic even other production of agriculture commodities were also affected (Elithung Lotha, 2020).

Impacts on Economic Activities: Lockdowns and restrictions have led to a sharp impact on economic activities at the global and national level and the state has also not been spared. From 7.43 per cent growth during 2019-20, the state's economy is anticipated to register a negative growth of -5.59 per cent (Advanced Estimate) during 2020-21. In absolute terms, the contraction in the state economy is anticipated that the COVID-19 pandemic has been highly disruptive and challenging and it pulled down the state's economy to the tune of Rs 1013.11 crore during 2020-21(Neiphiu Rio, 2021). He added in 2021, the State Plan size was Rs 639 crore on which a pro-rata cut of 15 per cent was applied, reducing the plan size to Rs 572 crore. However, keeping in view the need to give a boost to developmental activities, the state plan size for the current financial year has been enhanced to Rs 700 crore which represents an increase of over 22 per cent over the revised State Plan outlay of last year.

Table 1.1 Employment Generation in Nagaland under various schemes in last 3 years

Scheme	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
PMEGP- Estimated Employment Generated	7440	9664	9136*
MGNREGS-Person Day's Generated (in crore)	2.00	1.33	0.95**
DDU-GKY-No. of Candidates Placed in Jobs after Training	0	0	353
Day-NULM- No. of Skill Trained Persons given Placement	1749	0	0

Source: Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.

Note: *(as on 31.12.2019) & **(as on 28.01.2020)

According to the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the estimated employment generated under PMREGP, the total beneficiaries /entrepreneurs in Nagaland for 2019-20 till December 31, 2019 was 9136. This was a fall from 9664 in 2018-19, after increasing from 7440, the previous year. As per the data provided by Rural Development (MIS), the 'Person days Generated' in Nagaland under MGNREGS, enacted as a security measure guaranteeing 100 days of wage employment per year to rural households, showed a declining trend. It declined from 2 crores 'Person days Generated' in 2017-18 to 1.33 crore in 2018-19. The figure for 2019-20 reflected a sharp decline to 0.95 crore till January 28, 2020. The State's ability to place candidates in jobs after training under DDU-GKY, a scheme implemented by the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) with the dual objectives of adding diversity to the incomes of rural poor families and cater to the career aspirations of rural youth, was less spectacular. Quoting the Ministry of Rural Development data, the Minister's reply informed that Nagaland managed to place 353 in the last three financial years, with the period from 2017-2019 showing '0' placement. Table depicted that life of workers particularly in Nagaland exaggerated by unemployment condition.

Impacts on Employment: Yhome highlighted the unresolved unemployment crisis in Nagaland. As per the data provided by the Employment Exchange, there is around 60,000 educated unemployed youth in the Exchange, there is around 60,000 educated unemployed youth in the state. In the nationwide race, Nagaland has the second highest Unemployment rate an average of 31% as against the national average of 6%, after Lakshadweep (Kesonyü Yhome, 2021).

Impacts of Market Situations: Nagaland no exception in suffering economical losses due to the Lockdown. All the hotels, restaurants, shopping malls, many marketplaces, etc are closed. Taxi services were also put on halt during the first two phases of Lockdown period. In India including the North East States 12.2 Crore people lost their jobs in the month of April and 27 million youths in the age group 20-30 years lost their jobs in April 2020 due to Lockdown (The hindu. (2020).

Impact on Mental status: The outbreak of COVID-19 outbreak has also created lots of tensions and anxiety in many people of Nagaland. People are getting distressed for being quarantined and many of them are trying to escape the quarantine center. The fear of the spread of the virus among people is on high rise. To help people manage their mental stress during this crisis.

Impacts on health sector: The second wave of covid-19 has hit Nagaland. Most hospitals and COVID-19 care centers are running with only a limited access to medical supplies and COVID-19 related equipment's as the wave surges on. Despite this, on May, Covid-19 hospitals are overwhelmed. There is an urgent need to supplement hospitals and health centers with the necessary medical equipment to treat Covid-19 patients. Procurement and distribution of medical supplies including but not limited to Oxygen concentrators, oxygen cylinders, pulse oximeters, PPE kits. These will be identified based on the needs as expressed by the Nagaland COVID War Room team and district hospitals. These will be distributed via three channels- through the Government, hospitals and NGOs.

Impact on Education: As all the educational Institutes are also closed, going as per the academic calendar is a major challenge. To tackle the situation Nagaland government has taken many initiatives apart from following the guidelines of UCG and Govt. of India. Some of them are- CR School in state which provide

the platform for all the schools to be available online for e- learning classes even Nagaland also followed (Arup Barman & Karan Das (2020). All schools were locked to curb the speediness of virus.

Impact on Consumption pattern of petroleum Industry: In the month of April 2020 during 40 days of lockdown, the consumption of fuel products declined to 80% in India. This has caused the government of India to loss revenue of Rs. 40,000 Crore in the month of April (Beniwal V, and Chakraborty D. (2020). Nagaland has become the first state in India to levy a COVID-19 cess on Rs 6 per litre of petrol and an extra Rs 5 per litre of diesel. Governor of Nagaland is notified that in addition to existing rate of tax and cess, the COVID-19 cess shall be levied (Sentiyanger Imchen (2021). Similarly, the Assam govt. increased petrol price from Rs. 71.61 to Rs. 77.46 and of diesel from Rs. 67.07 to Rs. 70.50 per liter with effect from 22 April 2020 (Himanta Biswa Sarma, 2020).

Impacts on political policy and sectoral allocations: the budget for the year 2021-22 is affected by the financial crisis caused by the pandemic. However, seeing the steady pace of recovery of the country's economy and high expectations of a resurgent growth in the year ahead, the State Developmental Outlay for 2021-22 at ₹700 crores. This is an increase of 9.55% over the Plan size of 2020-21. State heavily dependent on Centrally Sponsored Schemes for most of the developmental activities, allocated ₹250 crores towards State Matching Share for Central Schemes including that of DoNER and NEC.

Table 1.2 Monthly COVID-19 Cases in Nagaland

Total cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Active case	Total
September 2020	4897	12	1058	5957
October 2020	5263	12	1221	6496
November 2020	9241	61	1442	10744
December 2020	10759	65	481	11305
January 2021	11733	88	107	11928
February 2021	11908	90	41	12039
March 2021	11952	91	15	12058
May 2021	9063	327	4923	14313

Source: Nagaland state Department of Health and Family Welfare

From the above table easily identified in the beginning the speediness of virus increased day by day death cases, active cases and active cases respectively. Then may 2021, it was declined due to usage of vaccination. To curb the pandemic vaccination is main tool as well as social distance and wear the masks because of it was included in analysis.

Data Analysis and Tools

Table 1.3 District Wise Cases registered of COVID-19 and Vaccination in Nagaland

District	Population+ (2020 est.)	Total cases	Recover ies	Deaths	Active case	No. Vaccinated**
Dimapur	431,845	13,286	11,900	360	1,026	1,38,958
Kiphire	84,365	228	200	8	20	9,123
Kohima	305,506	8,717	8,100	99	518	77,149
Longleng	57,552	253	206	2	45	24,386
Mokokchung	221,869	1,920	1,603	48	269	50,545
Mon	285,296	1,094	1,038	13	43	44,689
Peren	108,550	872	773	3	96	14,833
Phek	186,297	475	435	17	23	27,473
Tuensang	224,119	977	898	10	69	18,054
Wokha	189,631	316	265	11	40	27,049
Zunheboto	160,463	571	488	14	69	30,253
Total	2,255,493	28,709	25,906	585	2,218	4,62,512

Source: Government of Nagaland, As of 2021-08-09 "COVID cases source".

Source: + Population estimates for year of 2020.

**National Information Center, Government of Nagaland, 06/27/21.

Only secondary data collected and used correlation analysis for eleven districts of Nagaland which analyses the various impacts of COVID-19 on life of workers that have now not been covered due to the non-availability of data and briefly explained the atrocities of pandemic literarily. From observations of the above table in Nagaland state, Dimapur district had high level of cases compare with other district, data mentioned that there was mostly people affected by Covid-19 and 360 were died and followed by the capital of state Kohima district placed in second, here 99 were died due to corona diseases. Most of people of Longleng were died and Kiphire districts not affected heavily by corona only few killed 2 and 8 respectively.

Hypothesis Testing: Correlation analysis were carried out to identify the relationship between population and total covid-19 affected cases and taken vaccination by people in selected areas. The problem of the study investigates relationship between population and covid-19 cases and vaccination.

H1: There is significance relationship between population and covid-19 cases and vaccination.

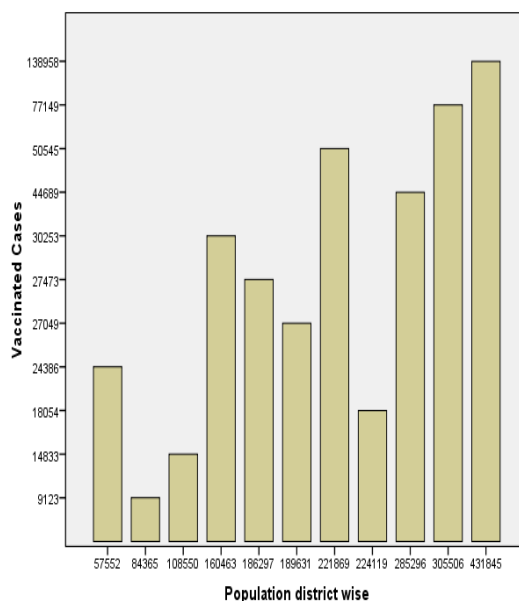
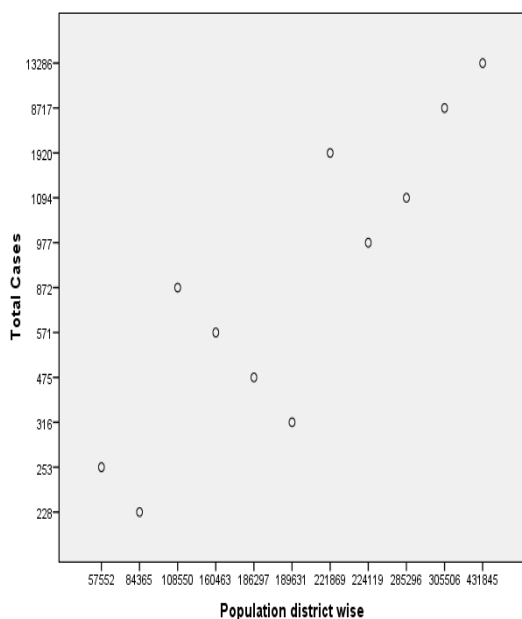
Correlations

Table: 1.4: Pearson correlation: Pearson product correlation of population

	Population district wise	Total Cases	Vaccinated Cases
Population district wise	1		
Total Cases	.826**	1	
Vaccinated Cases	.881**	.954**	1

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Reporting Pearson correlation: Pearson product correlation of population of eleven districts of Nagaland state was found high positive and statistically significant with total covid-19 cases ($r=.826, p < .001$) and vaccinated cases ($r=.881, p < .001$). Total cases very high positive and statistically significant with vaccinated cases ($r=.954, p < .001$). Hence H1 was supported this showed that increase in population density would lead to more covid-19 cases and vaccination in the followers. From this observation, when population density increases which would be lead to increase rate of covid-19 cases and people got aware to take more vaccination.



The above graphs explored the fact which mentioned the relationship between population and covid-19 cases and vaccination. Probed that population explosion is one of the resultant for unstable life of workers moreover other side corona contributed more to demolish them frequently. So, hereby evidenced that mostly numerous impacts lied on life of Nagaland workers in their soil.

Conclusion

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said COVID-19 pandemic, to a future with high rates of sustained economic growth and better income levels for our citizens, the need for keeping a focus on saving livelihoods as well as lives during difficult times. Meanwhile actually in Nagaland workers were severely pretentious by countless causes on their life. They were spent lot of money instead of earning income when meets the loss of jobs, and debt burden, health expenses, transport charges were enlarged during the pandemic. By correlation analysis, we concluded this mostly in selected areas, covid-19 affected increased and got vaccination immediately because severe force of pandemic and impacts on ordinary business of life. No evidence to prove the impacts of covid-19 on life of workers, workers fell with lot of fights and conflicts to overcome it evidently.

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Declaration of Conflicting Interests

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Microeconomic Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic: Case Study of Three Slums in Sylhet City, Bangladesh

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Migration Diaspora and Remittance Review
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Abstract

The coronavirus outbreak named COVID-19 has disrupted not only the Chinese economy but also globally. It is not only a global pandemic and public health crisis but also it has severely affected the global economy and financial markets. The impacts of COVID-19 viral pandemic become highly personal. Individual experience mental, physical and financial loss. The pandemic has disrupted economic loss globally, nationally and individually. It has shattered lives across all countries and communities. Bangladesh is also not an exception. It's also facing economic crisis due to COVID-19 pandemic. The most vulnerable groups in Bangladesh primarily rely on daily income sources are greatly affected by the pandemic. This study was conducted in three slums of Sylhet city and data were collected from the sample of selected 100 households. A house to house survey was conducted to collect data. The study explored the relationships between respondent's age, family size, monthly income, employment status and number of earning members in the family. 44% people had lost their jobs due to lockdown. Most of them are women engaged with house servant occupation. Income of rickshaw pullers, hawkers and small business (tong) owners has been decreasing day by day during the time of lockdown. The number of men who are engaged with rickshaw pulling occupation are 67%. Among other 33%, 11% were working as waiters at different small local restaurants, 13% were working at shops and markets as salesmen and 9% men were involve with hawking and small businesses. 60% families had 2 earning members but due to the pandemic, 45% families had lost one of their earning member in the family. This study indicates the problems of day laborers in pandemic.

Keywords

Pandemic, COVID-19, infectious disease, lockdown, microeconomics, unemployment.

Introduction

The World has been usurped by a pandemic for almost whole 2020 year. It was identified as a new coronavirus (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, or SARS-CoV-2), and later named as COVID-19 (Qiu et al., 2020). The disease COVID-19 was first originated in the city of Wuhan in the Hubei province of China and has spread rapidly across the world. By mid-June, there had been over 8 million cases of COVID-19 globally, with over 436,000 deaths (Brodeur et al., 2020). It not only caused enormous human tragedy but also tremendous economic damage. The economic damage had a great impact on Bangladesh also. Bangladesh is a developing country. A large portion of its people living under poverty line. The most vulnerable groups in Bangladesh rely on daily income sources, and the loss of these income sources were highly effected their lives (NAWG, 2020). Current situation measures have and will continue to severely affect daily wage earners who rely on unsustainable, daily wage earning in order to support themselves and their families. They are mostly vulnerable in terms of living arrangement, food consumption and possessions on wealth, participation in decision making of the family and social attitude and values (Pal & Hussain, 2016). The Government of Bangladesh has delivered significant resources to support these vulnerable communities impacted. However, it is likely that a coordinated humanitarian response over a 12-month period will be needed to supplement these efforts. It will provide the basic future planning including where activities need to be focused, who is the most in need and how the programs can be best exempted (NAWG, 2020).

Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of the study was to know more about the economic impact of COVID19 pandemic on poor people. Therefore, the main objectives of the study were:

- To know the financial status of different households living in the slum areas of Sylhet City.
- To know their current situation and way of livings.

Related Literature Review

Bloom et al. (2005) estimate the potential economic impact of a pandemic by the Oxford economic forecasting model resulting from the mutation of avian influenza strain. They assume a mild pandemic with a 20% attack rate and a 0.5 percent case-fatality rate and a consumption shock of 3%. The scenario includes two-quarters of demand contraction only in Asia (combined effect 2.6% Asian GDP or US\$113.2 billion. Global GDP is reduced by 0.6%, global trade of goods and services contracts by \$2.5 trillion (14%). Open economies are more vulnerable to international shocks.

Hyams et al. (2002) illustrated the impact of COVID19 pandemic in China. Entire cities in China have closed and travel restrictions placed by countries on people entering from infected countries. The fear of an deadly virus is similar in its psychological effects to the reaction to biological and other forms of terrorism threats and causes a high level of stress, often with long-term outcomes.

Boissay and Rungcharoenkitkul, 2020 compared to previous pandemics, COVID-19 has a great impact on the elderly from a health perspective. The lockdown measures, however are not only affect the global economy but also has a massive impact on physical and mental health. This has led to raise financial market turbulence and enlarged the economic shock. Moreover, borrowing and higher debt levels increased among firms, households and especially poor people during this time make the short-term shocks more strong compared to previous pandemics.

Brodeur et al., 2020 did a survey focusing the emerging and rapidly growing literature on the economic consequences of COVID-19 and government response. The paper also synthesize the insights emerging from a very large number of studies. It reviewed different research related to lockdown, social distancing, particularly in regards to its determinants, its effectiveness in extinguishing the spread of COVID-19 and its consent.

Maliszewska et al., 2020 at the time of writing, WHO reported cases of COVID19 in 206 countries and reported deaths are more than 40,000 people. The primary focus is necessarily on containment, treating the ill and helping communities cope with the epidemic. The paper indicates the potential loss of earning in affected countries could be significant, with global GDP declining by up to 3.9%, and developing countries hit the hardest (4% on average, but some over 6.5%). Governments will need to offer sufficient support to affected businesses and households.

Methodology of the Study

The area of SCC is 2650 Square Kilometer having population about 500000. The total numbers of slums in Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) are about 754. Three slums of SCC were selected randomly for collecting the relevant information. This study was based on quantitative research method with various data collection procedures, such as interview, house to house survey, focus group discussion (FGD). To carry out investigations, several questionnaires were prepared and asked to the selected respondents to collect necessary information such as their economical ups and downs, employment status during COVID19 pandemic. The study was based on primary data. The householder constituted the population for this study. Among them 100 households were selected for sample. The sampling procedure was done by selected slums. The included slum areas are: Baluchar Notunbazar, North Baluchar and Fajil Chist. They are known as colony and the name of the colonies of the selected areas are Notunbazar Colony, Uttar Baluchar Colony and Safiq Khan's Colony.

Variable under study

The researcher took adequate care in selecting the variables of the study. The following variables were selected for the study:

The variables of the study were family size, family income (per month), level of education, age and occupation. The descriptions of variables are given bellow:

Family size

Family size of a respondent was measured by the number of his/her family member including himself/herself, children, wife/husband and parents.

Family income (per month)

Family income of the respondent referred to the total monthly earning in TK of the respondent and all family members of a family. It was measured in terms of actual amount of TK.

Level of Education

Educational level of a respondent was measured by the number of years of schooling he or she completed. A respondent did not know how to read and write his/her name the respondent was taken as illiterate. Education level was taken as Primary (1-5), High School (6-10).

Age

The age of a respondent refers to the period of time from his/her birth to the time of interview. It was measured in terms of actual years.

Occupation

The main income source of respondent in per month was assessed as his or her occupation. Occupation 6 categories; hawker, rickshaw puller, waiter, small business owner (tong), maid, salesman.

Data analysis

The data analysis was done using the collected data from questionnaire survey and FGD. For the quantitative data personal judgment, expert's comments, results of the key information interview, public survey and participant's interview was needed for its analysis and interpretation. The recorded interviews and focus group discussions were transcribed in full and the accuracy was checked against the original recording and noted by the researcher. The data was tabulated and relevant statistical tools and computer software were employed for analyzing and interpreting the results. Interview and focus group discussion participants talked about their family status, employment problems, financial crisis and general wellbeing. Some of them were confident to talk about family matters including personal experiences at a job, different difficulties and people's attitude towards them etc.

Results

The findings of the study have been presented in following sections:

Selected characteristics of the household respondents

In the study we have discussed some characteristics of the household respondents such as occupation, family size, family income (monthly), level of education, age. Level of education and monthly income (TK)

From my study areas, total 35.5% respondents were illiterate and rest percentages were literate in different categories which has a positive significance in their occupation. The literacy percentage was higher in case of men than in women.

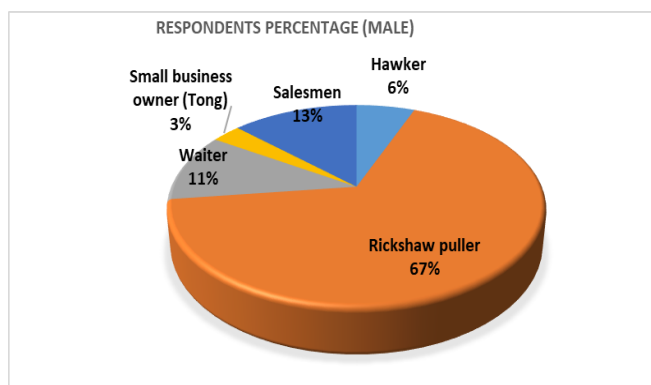
Based on their monthly income, the respondents were classified into three categories, low income (below 5000Tk), middle income (5001-10,000Tk), high income (10,000Tk).

Table 1: Level of education and family income of slum people

Category	Respondents (%)
Family income	
Low income (< 5000 tk)	13.5
Middle income (5000-10000 tk)	62
High income (>10,000 tk)	24.5
Total	100%
Level of education	
Illiterate	35.5
Primary (1-5)	43
High school (6-10)	21.5
Total	100%

Occupation

Among these 100 families, the highest percentage of males are involved with rickshaw pulling occupation about 67%, 13% are engaged with salesmen job and the rest of them are hawker, waiter at different local restaurants, small business owner (tong) etc. In case of females, 44% were unemployed as they had lost their job during the pandemic and the rest of are working as housemaids.



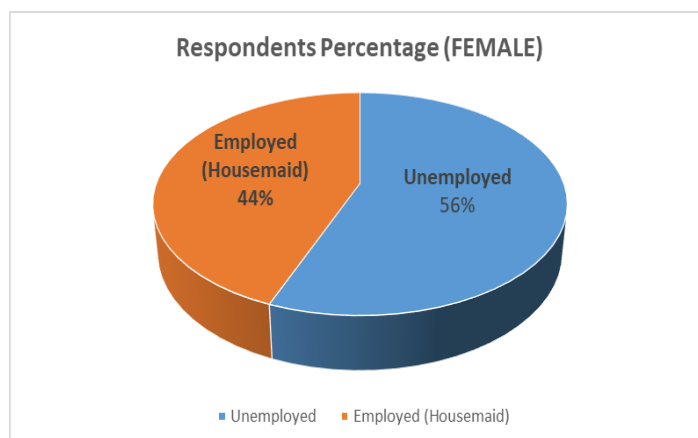


Figure 1: Occupation of slum people

Family size and age

In these 100 families, most of the families were small size 55.5%, 28% had middle family and very few are large family size. Age of the working male and females are around 23-50 years old.

Current Financial Situation of the Respondents

The respondents were currently living a miserable life due to the COVID19 pandemic. During lockdown, most of them were lost their jobs and others facing problem regarding lower income. One of the respondents who is a rickshaw puller stated that:

“The daily income is decreased almost half compared to the pre-pandemic situation. This is not my own rickshaw. So I have to give a fixed amount of money to the owner at the end of day. After giving him the daily rent, there are nothing much left for me to run my family. I am waiting whole day at different point of the city but most of the day no passenger showed in the lockdown.”

The study findings illustrated that, 60% of the families had two earning member in the family but during lockdown 45% of them lost one of their earning members as they had lost their job. One FGD participant, a 65 years old shared his view in the following way:

“I have stopped working two years ago as both my son and my daughter in law were working. But during lockdown, my daughter in law lost her job. She was a housemaid. After she lost her job, it is getting hard for us to live. Sometimes we only eat rice and salt. My son’s income is also decreasing day by day so I have to start working again. But due to lockdown, both of our earnings are not sufficient to run the family.”

The data demonstrate that the respondents suffer extreme poverty due to COVID19.. One 36 years old female participants who lost her job and her husband during pandemic stated that:

"I was working as a housemaid for like 6 years. My husband is a hawker. We were not so poor as both of our incomes were good enough for us to live a normal life. However, when the pandemic situation started, I had lost my jobs and my husband died of corona virus. Both of our income sources suddenly stopped. First few months, we were live on our savings but after that it was a nightmare for us. Then me and my son started collecting waste bottles and sell them to the brokers. But the earning amount is very little. We only get 40-50 TK in a whole day."

Problems Faced during Study

During study, the researcher had faced a lots of problems arising from the people living there. Majority of them were not co-operative. They were unwilling to share their information, personal details or taking pictures. A young man told that:

"We do not agree to tell you anything about us. Many people came our slums telling us that they needed our information to get us help from the Government but till now we do not get any help or anything from anyone. All of you are come here for your self-interest."

Some of them were used abusive language and misbehaved with me thinking me as Government employee and whatsoever.

Conclusion

The people in slum areas face difficulty to meet their daily needs as well as their physiological, psychological and social needs. They are mostly vulnerable in terms of living arrangement, food consumption and possessions on wealth and social values. COVID19 has greatly affected to the people who involved with jobs like house servant and waiter. Most of them have lost their jobs at the time of lockdown. On the other hand, income of rickshaw pullers, hawkers and small business owners have decreased. In the slum areas childrens are more vulnerable due to the extreme poverty. During lockdown, they could not attend online classes as they did not have any kind of smart gadgets. Many of them are started working as child labor because of the extreme poverty. The media should assist by presenting positive images of slum people, particularly emphasizing the need for respect because of their continuing contributions to society. This study was conducted in a very short period of time during COVID-19 lockdown. It could not cover all the slum areas in Sylhet City. It has been suggested that further research should conducted in those areas and different NGOs and Government should take proper steps to release these poor people from their misery.

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Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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